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Statewide Annual Report

TRAPPER QUESTIONNAIRE

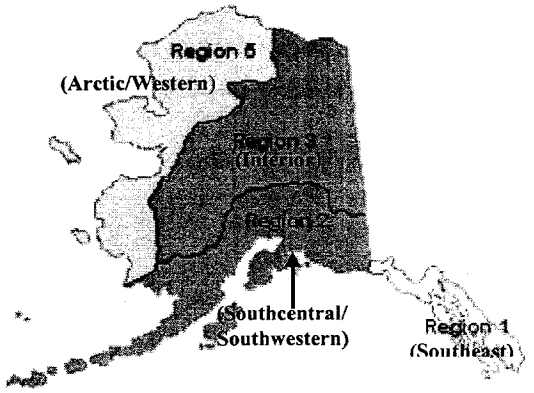
July 1, 2000–June 30, 2001

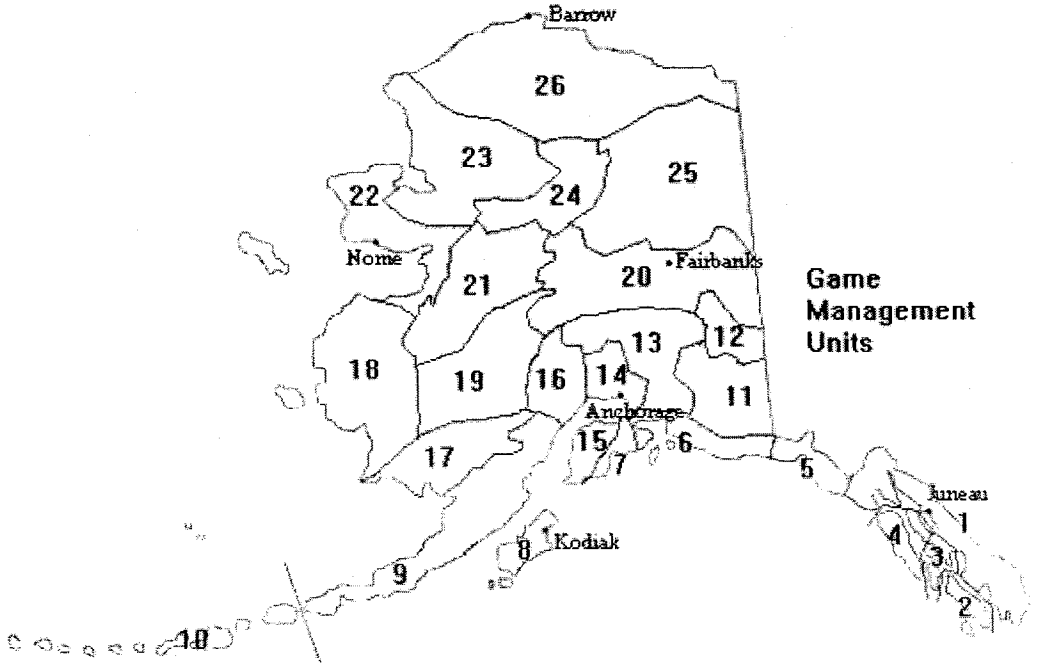
Ryan Scott
Jackie Kephart

May 2002

ALASKA'S REGIONS AND GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS

REGIONS





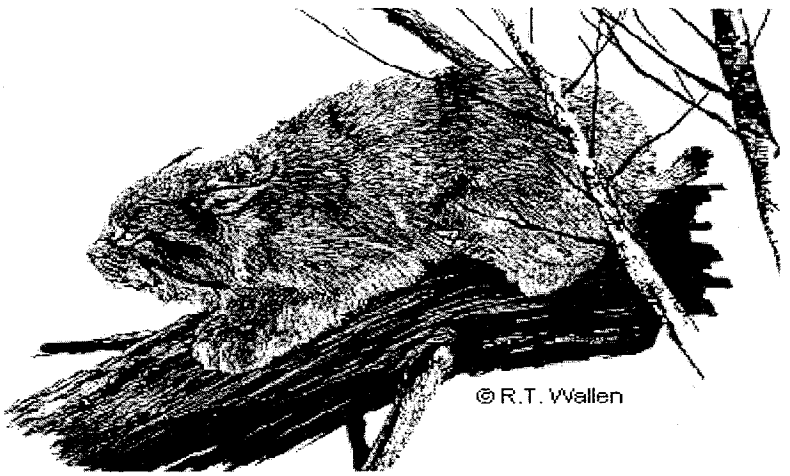
CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 1
A PROFILE OF ALASKA'S TRAPPERS 2
Did you trap in 2000–2001 2
Trapper Age and Experience 3
Did you have a young person (under age 16) with you on your trapline this year? 4
What transportation did you use to get to your main trapping area? 5
What transportation did you use to run your main trapline? 6
How long was your main trapline in 2000–2001? 7
How many sets did you make on your line in 2000–2001? 8
How many years have you been trapping in the same area? 9
What was the most important species you were trying to catch in 2000–20001? 9
How many weeks did you trap during the 2000–2001 season? 11
How did you change your trapping effort in 2000–2001? 12
What were the trapping conditions on your trapline? 13
Did last year's fur prices or pre-season advertised prices affect your trapping effort in 2000–2001? 14
Did the presence of other trappers in the area you trap affect your trapping effort in 2000–2001? 14
Did you keep or sell most of your furs? 15
METHODS OF TAKING FURBEARERS 16
ALASKA'S FURBEARER POPULATIONS 22
WOLF HARVEST METHODS 27
ALASKA'S FURBEARER HARVEST 28
COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING FURS 29
Fur Value 30
Fur Acquisition and Export 31
FUR SEALING REQUIREMENTS 32
AREA BIOLOGIST AND GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS 33
Furbearer Biologists' Reports 34
Trapping issues: State, National, and International in Alaska 34
Southeast Region 36
Southcentral/Southwestern Region 37
Interior Region 38
Arctic/Western Region 40
TRAPPER COMMENTS 45
How did trapping conditions affect your trapping effort? 45
Did other trappers in your area affect your trapping effort? 51
DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS TO ADF&G? 53
Southeast Region 53
Southcentral/Southwest Region 55
Interior Region 60
Arctic/Western Region 62

ALASKA TRAPPER REPORT
2000-2001

INTRODUCTION

The 2000–2001 Trapper Report includes information provided by Alaskan trappers through the annual Trapper Questionnaire. This year 1407 questionnaires were mailed throughout the state and 515 responses were received. Of these responses, 64% were actively trapping during the 2000–2001 season. Broken down by region, 60 people trapped in Southeast (Region I), 112 trapped in Southcentral and Southwestern (Region II), 85 trapped in the Interior (Region III) and 72 people trapped in the Arctic and Western regions (Region V). Additional responses were received from individuals who did not trap during the 2000–2001 season. This report contains information on demographic data about Alaskan trappers, methods of trapping, primary target species, trapping effort, numbers of furbearers trapped, fur disposition and prices. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game welcomes comments concerning the management of Alaska's wildlife resources and continues to publish trapper comments in this report. In the interest of confidentiality, the names of individuals and references to specific traplines are not included. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game hopes you will find this report informative and welcomes suggestions for improving this publication.



Alaska's Trappers

The annual Trapper Report is a dynamic document and is subject to modification according to the needs of trappers statewide and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In the following pages you will find how your fellow trappers answered the 2000–2001 Trapper Questionnaire questions. Where possible, we show trapper responses from previous years.

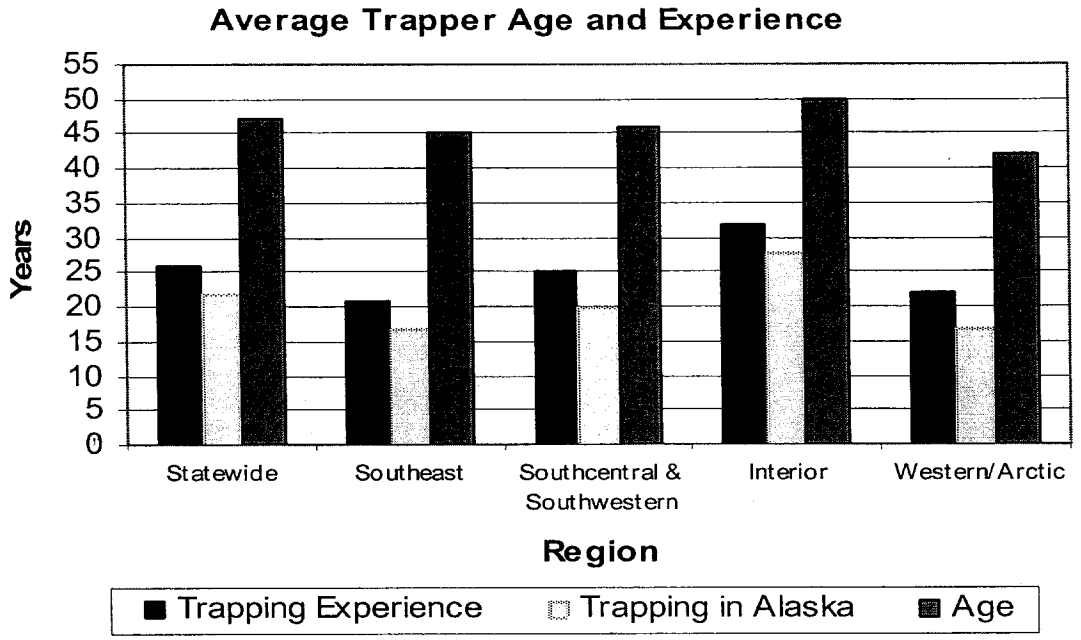
Did you trap in 2000-2001 Season?

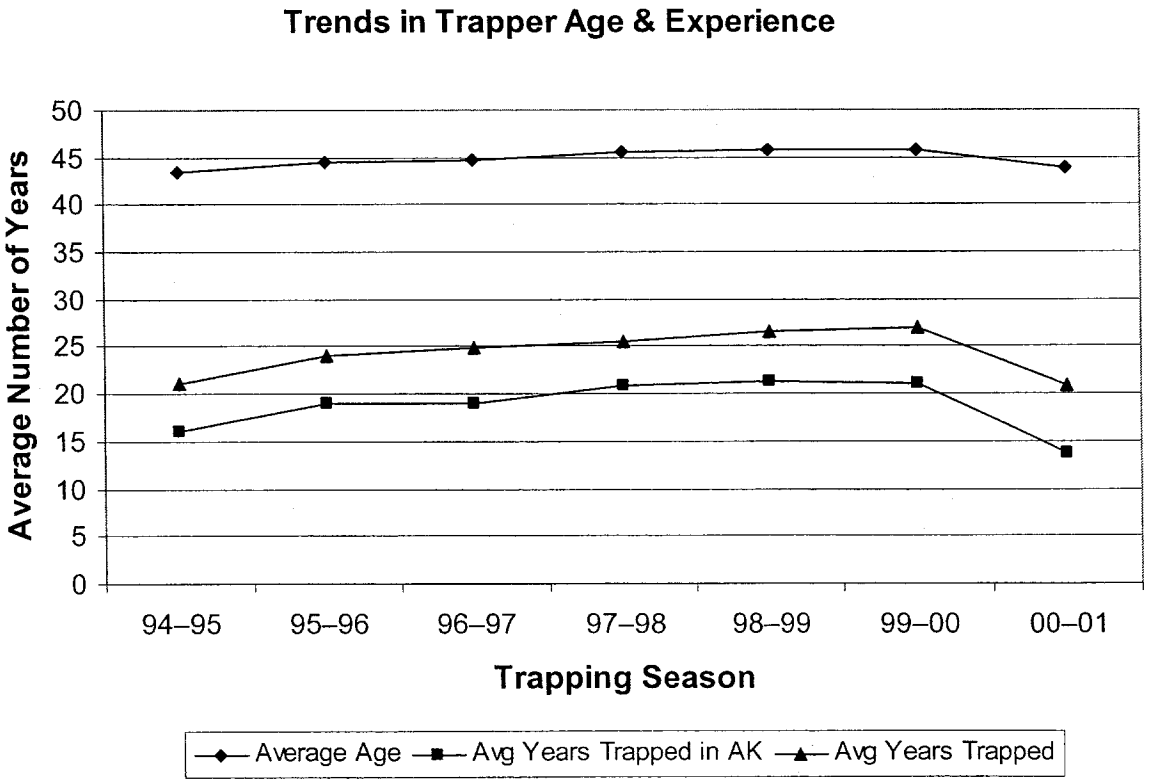
Of the 515 trappers who responded to this questionnaire, 340 individuals or 64% said they trapped during the 2000–2001 season. Alaska experienced a small increase in the number of trappers who trapped: 290 trappers during the 1999–2000 season, while 340 trappers indicated they trapped this season.

Of the 515 Trappers Who Returned the 2000-2001 Questionnaire

Trapper Age and Experience

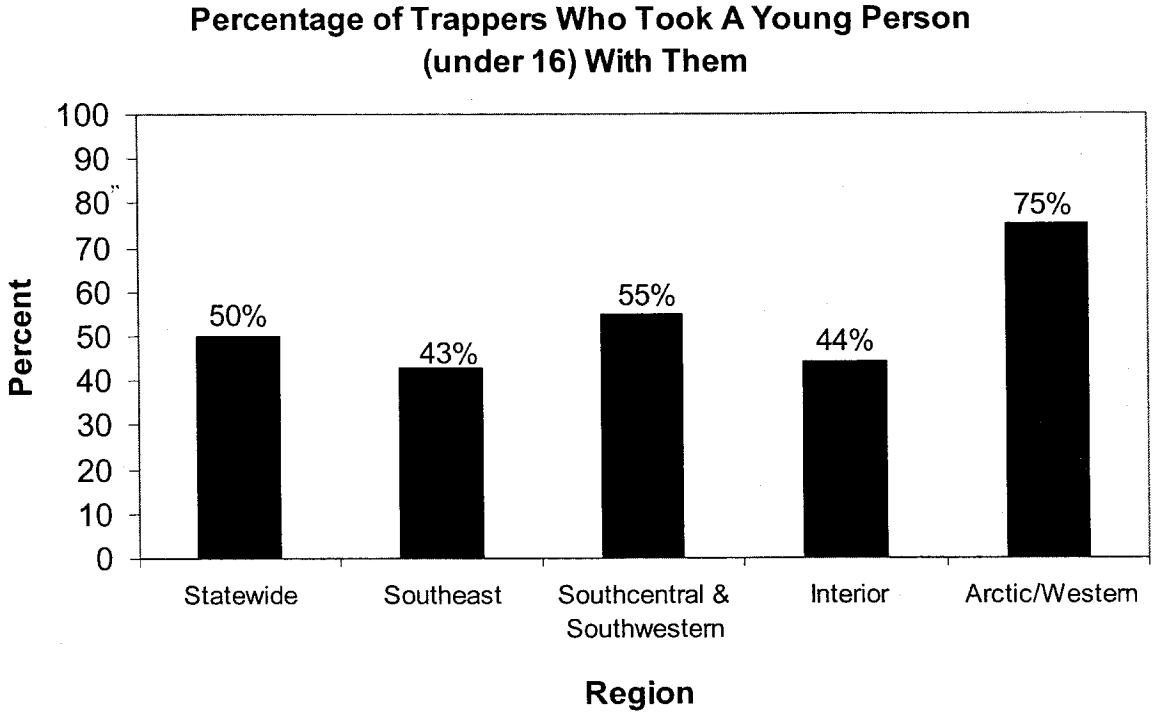
The average age of a trapper in Alaska who responded to this questionnaire is 47 years with 26 years total trapping experience and 22 years trapping in Alaska. The profile of this year's trapper is nearly identical to the 1999–2000 trapper. However, the youngest responding trapper this year was 5 years old and the oldest was 95 years old. It appears that new generations are participating in trapping. **If you know a young trapper who would like to get this report, please send us their name and address with your questionnaire.**

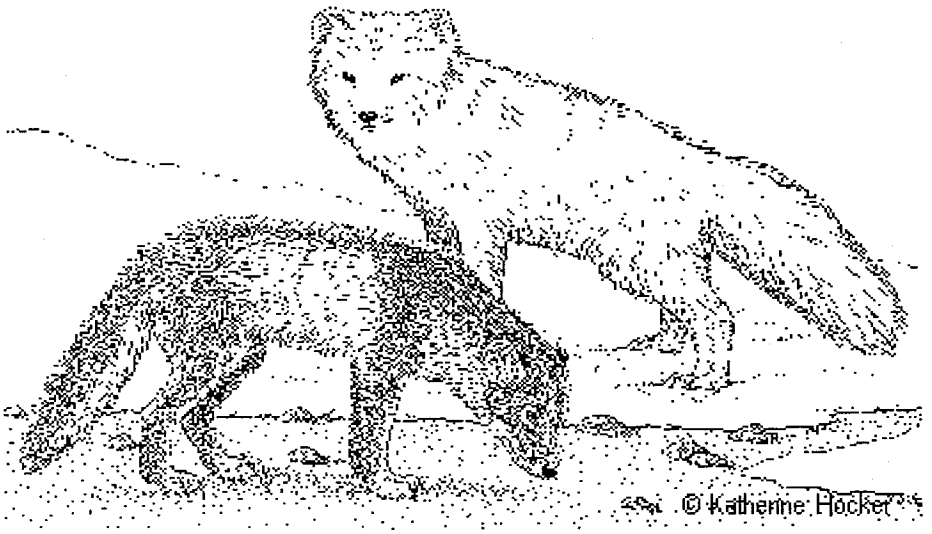

Average Trapper Age and Experience
55
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Years
Statewide
Southeast
Southcentral & Southwestern
Interior
Western/Arctic
Region
Trapping Experience
Trapping in Alaska
Age


Trends in Trapper Age & Experience
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Average Number of Years
94–95
95–96
96–97
97–98
98–99
99–00
00–01
Trapping Season
Average Age
Avg Years Trapped in AK
Avg Years Trapped

Did you have a youngster (under 16) with you on your trap line this year?

In 2000–2001 the number of young people accompanying trappers increased. During the previous season, 40% of trappers took a young person (under 16 years of age) with them on their trapline. This season, 50% of trappers brought a young person to their trapline.

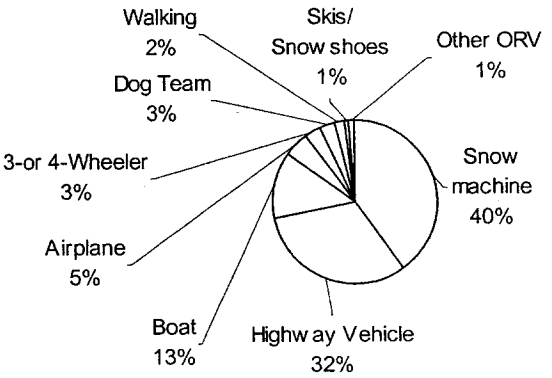




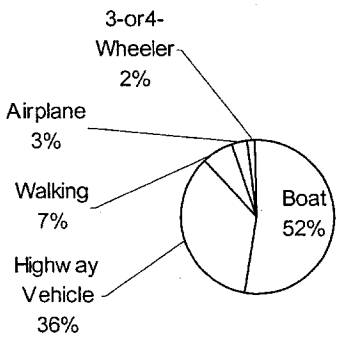
What mode of transportation did you use to get to your main trapping area?

Transportation used by trappers throughout the state to get to their trapline(s) is summarized in the following pie charts.

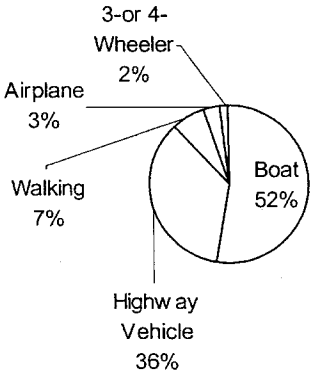
Statewide Transportation To Trapline (274 responses)



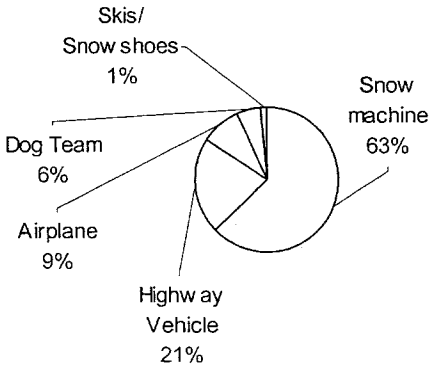
Southeast Transportation To Trapline (59 responses)



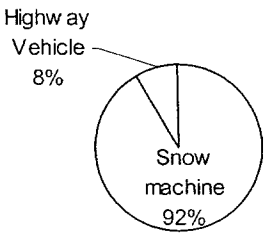
Southcentral & Southwestern Transportation To Trapline (114 responses)



Interior Transportation To Trapline (89 responses)

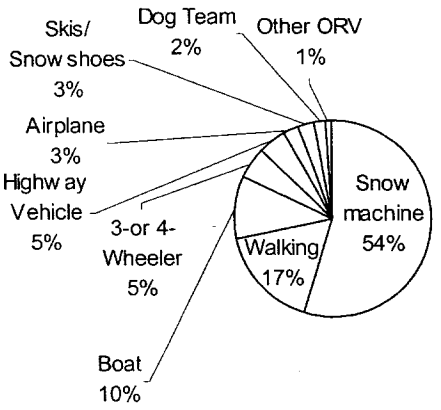


Arctic/Western Transportation To Trapline (12 responses)



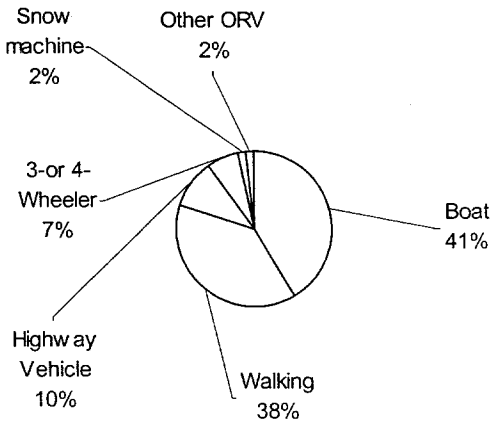
What Transportation did you use to run your main trapline?

Statewide Transportation On Trapline
(276 responses)

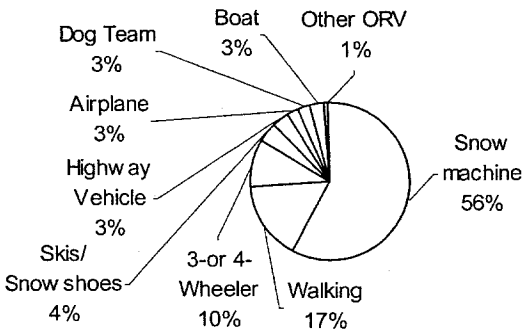


Percentages of transportation used by Alaska's trappers to run their traplines are summarized in the following pie charts.

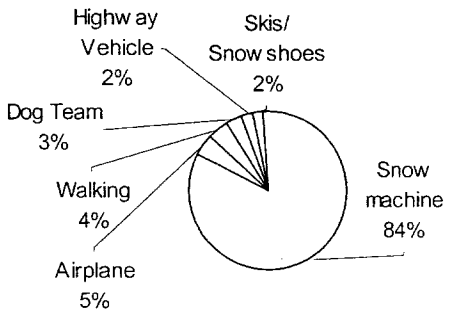
Southeast Transportation On Trapline
(60 responses)



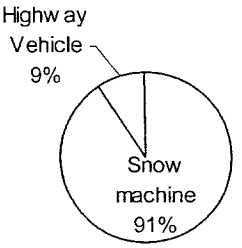
Southcentral & Southwestern Transportation on Trapline
(115 responses)



Interior Transportation On Trapline
(90 responses)

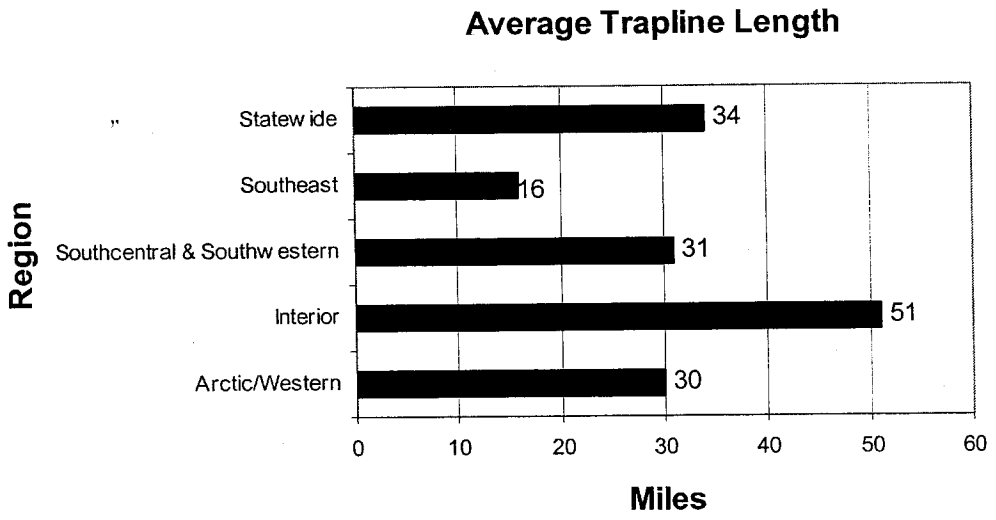


Arctic/Western Transportation On Trapline
(11 responses)

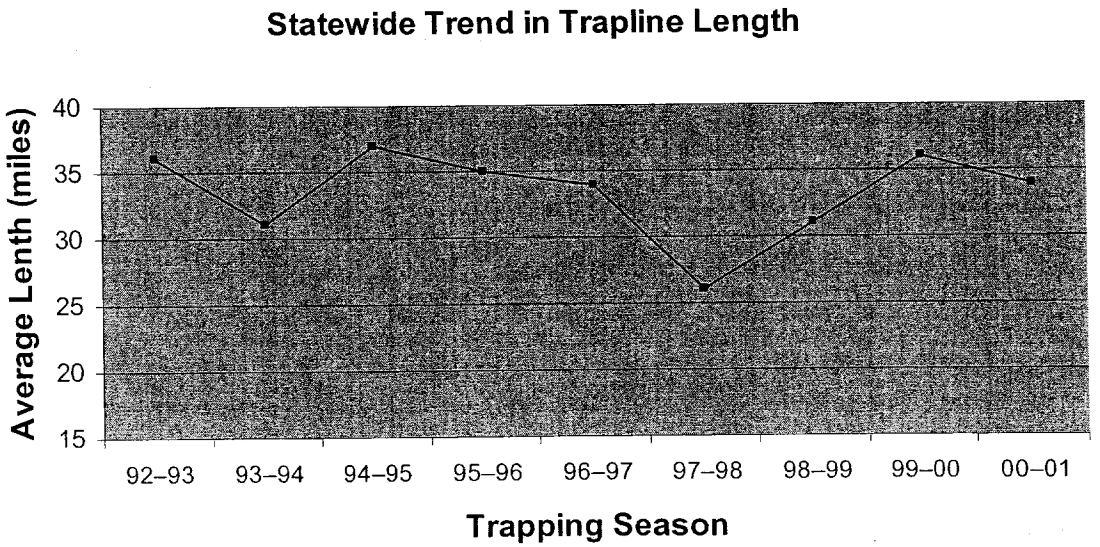


How long was your main trapline in 2000–2001?

The average trapline length in Alaska was 34 miles. Trapline lengths were variable throughout the state with a 1-mile line being the lowest and a 300-mile long trapline being the longest. In Southeast, average trapline lengths were 16 miles and varied between 1 and 100 miles. In the Southcentral and Southwestern regions, the average trapline was 31 miles long and varied between 1 and 300 miles. In the Interior region, the average trapline length was 51 miles and varied between 1 and 250 miles. In the Arctic/Western region, the average trapline length was 30 miles and varied between 1 and 300 miles.



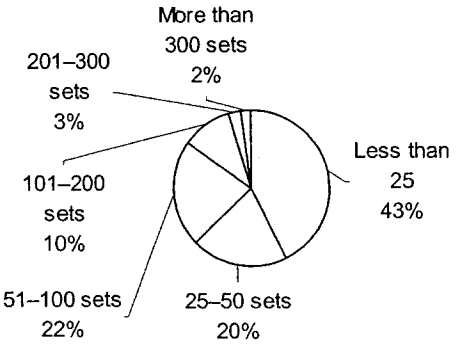
Since the 1992–1993 season, the statewide average trapline length has remained between 26 and 37 miles. The longest trapline in the state has fluctuated between a low of 200 miles in 1999–2000 and a high of over 400 miles in 1992–1993. Changes in trapline length can be the result of many factors including fur prices or abundance, trapping season changes, weather, and the number of reporting trappers.



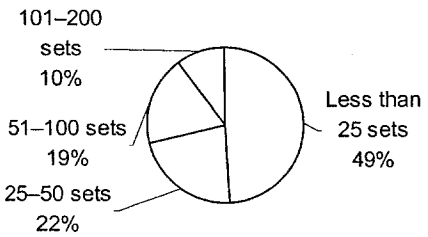
How many sets did you make on your trapline in 2000-2001?

The following graphics represent the number of sets reported by trappers from each region. The number of sets vary greatly; intensity and effort is different for each trapper and region. Most trappers (85%) put out 100 or less traps. A significant percentage (43%) of reporting Trappers put out a fewer than 25 sets. The data appear to indicate low trapper effort; however, there were some sets of more than 300 reported (2%) in the state.

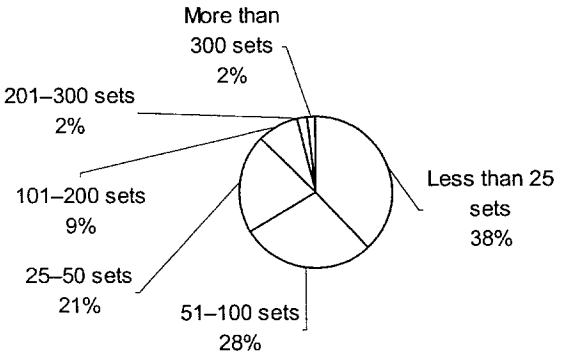
Statewide Number of Sets on the Trapline



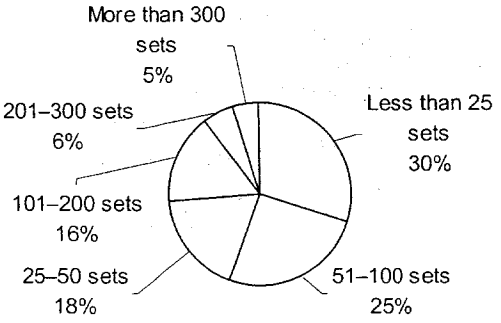
Southeast Number of Sets on the Trapline



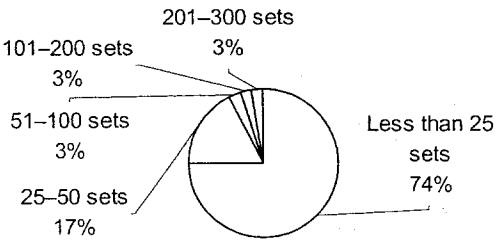
Southcentral and Southwestern Number of Sets on the Trapline



Interior Number of Sets on the Trapline

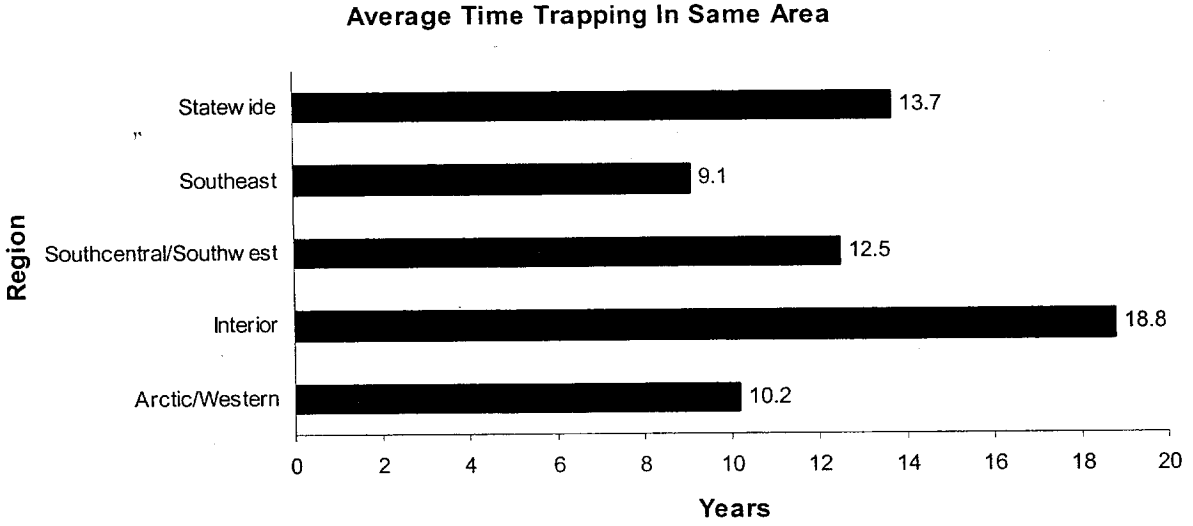


Arctic/Western Number of Sets on the Trapline



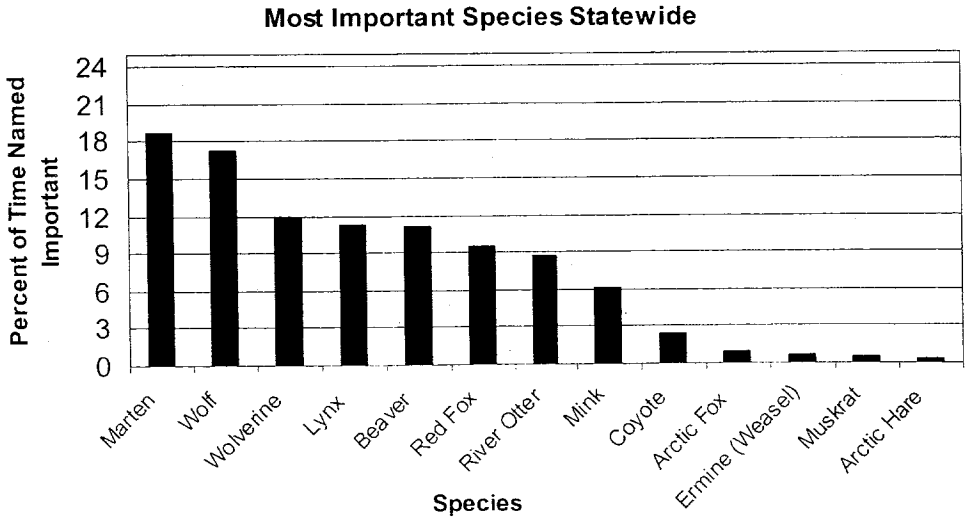
How many years have you been trapping in the same area?

Alaskan trappers have spent, on average, over 13 years trapping in the same area. The longest time in the same area is 60 years by a trapper in the Dillingham area. Southeast and the Arctic/Western regions saw growth over last year in the length of time trapping in the same area. The Interior region time length decreased from an average of 20.7 years during the 1999–2000 season to an average of just under 19 years (18.8) during the 2000–2001 trapping season. The Southcentral and Southwestern regions saw virtually no length of time growth from last year's trapper questionnaire. These changes do not necessarily indicate changes in trapping trends or areas. Over time it may be possible to draw conclusions based on average lengths of time a trapper spends in the same area.



What were the three most important species you were trying to catch in 2000–2001?

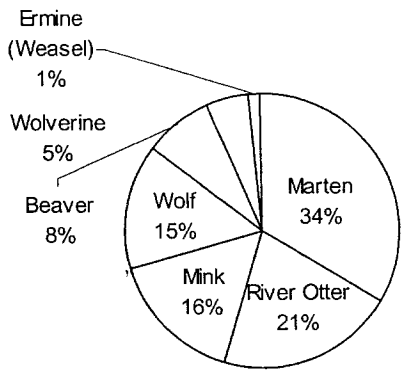
Marten was the species listed as most important in the 2000–2001 questionnaire. Marten has been the most important species since the 1992–1993 trapping season except during the 1999-2000 season when wolf was listed as most important. The importance of wolverine and mink decreased; beaver and river otter increased; lynx, red fox, coyote and arctic fox all remained at approximately the same percentage as the 1999–2000 season. Targeted species change yearly and these changes are based on many factors.



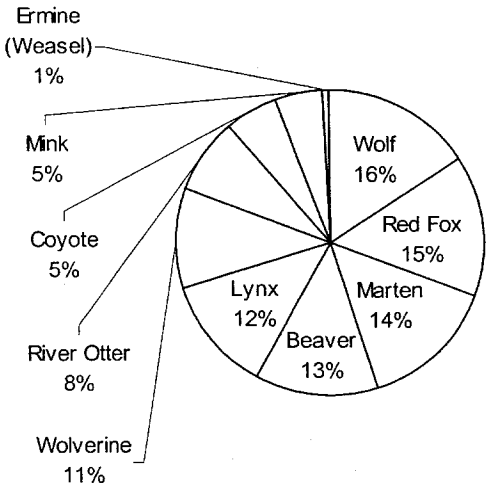
Most Important Species

Broken down regionally, most important species vary. Regional differences can be explained by furbearer availability, abundance, and fur market status.

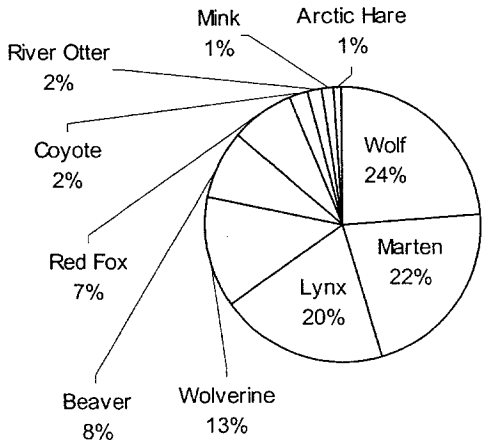
Most Important Species-Southeast



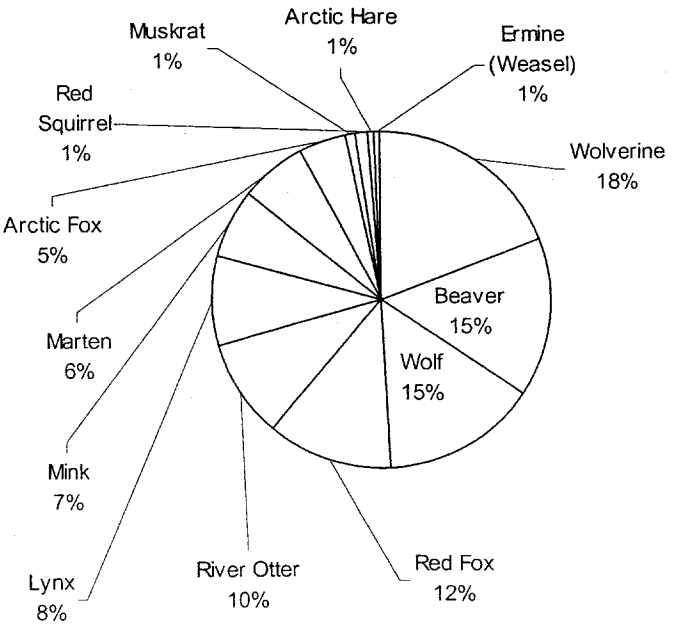
Most Important Species-Southcentral & Southwestern



Most Important Species-Interior

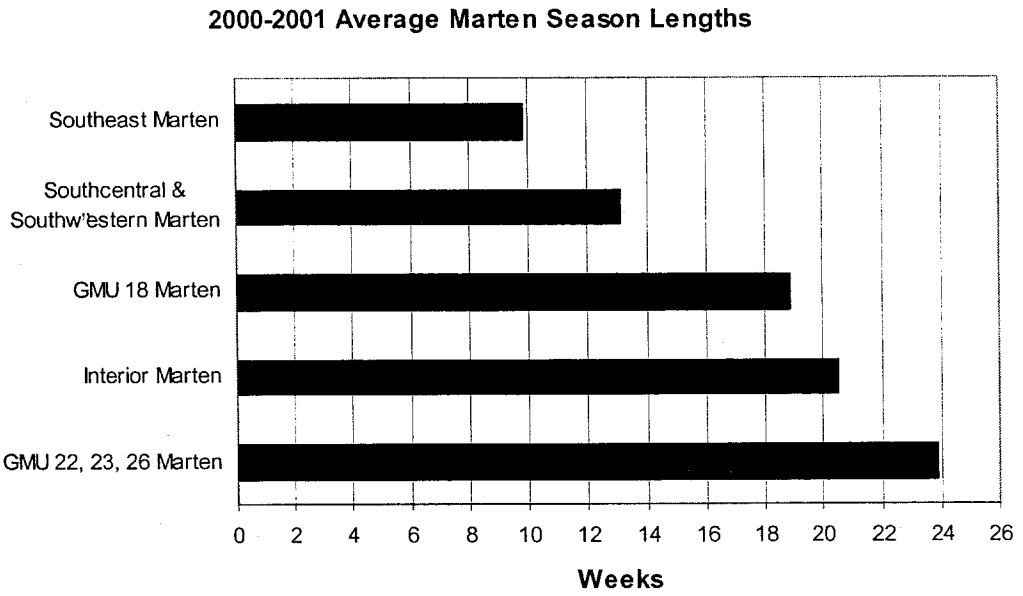


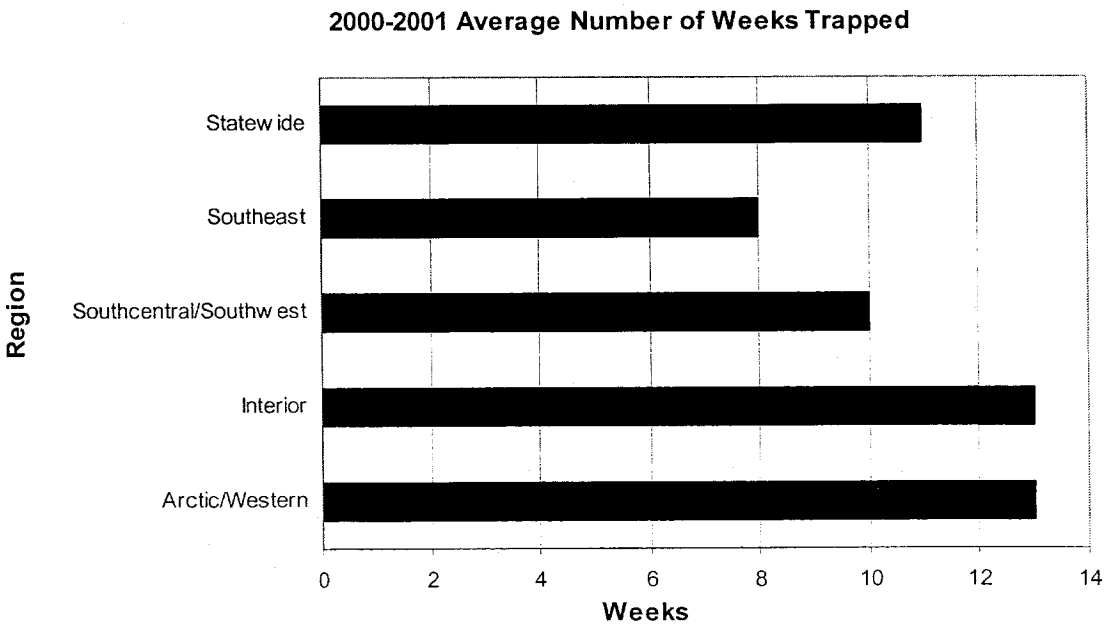
Most Important Species-Arctic/Western



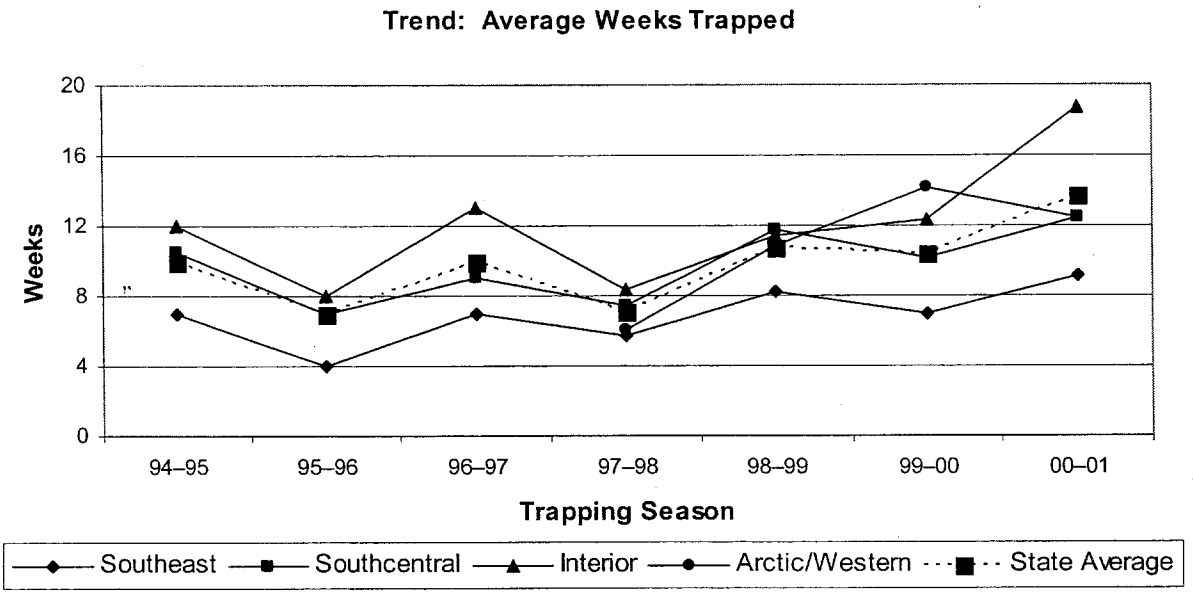
How many weeks did you trap during the 2000–2001 season?

The average trapper in Alaska trapped for approximately 11 weeks. Note the similarity of average season length for marten and average number of weeks trapped. The graphics below may prove that many trappers focus on marten, and marten is the most important furbearer being trapped.



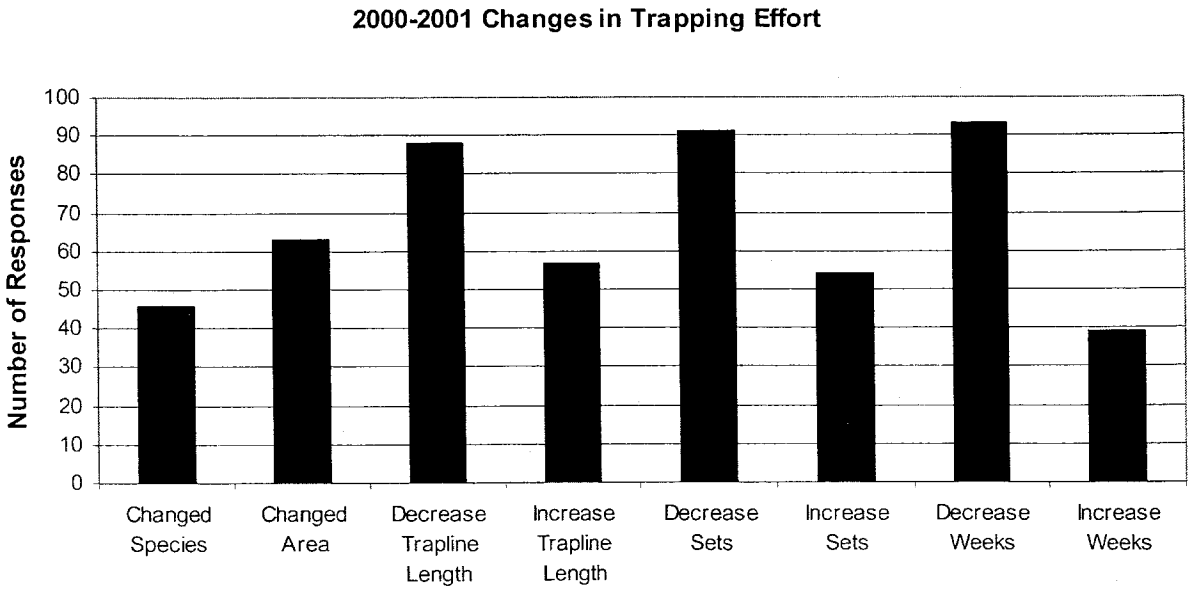


The chart below illustrates trends in the length of time trapped in each region over the last several trapping seasons. During the 2000–2001 trapping season, trappers in every region except the Arctic/Western, trapped more weeks. Statewide, the last seven years show a shallow but increasing trend in the number of weeks trapped.



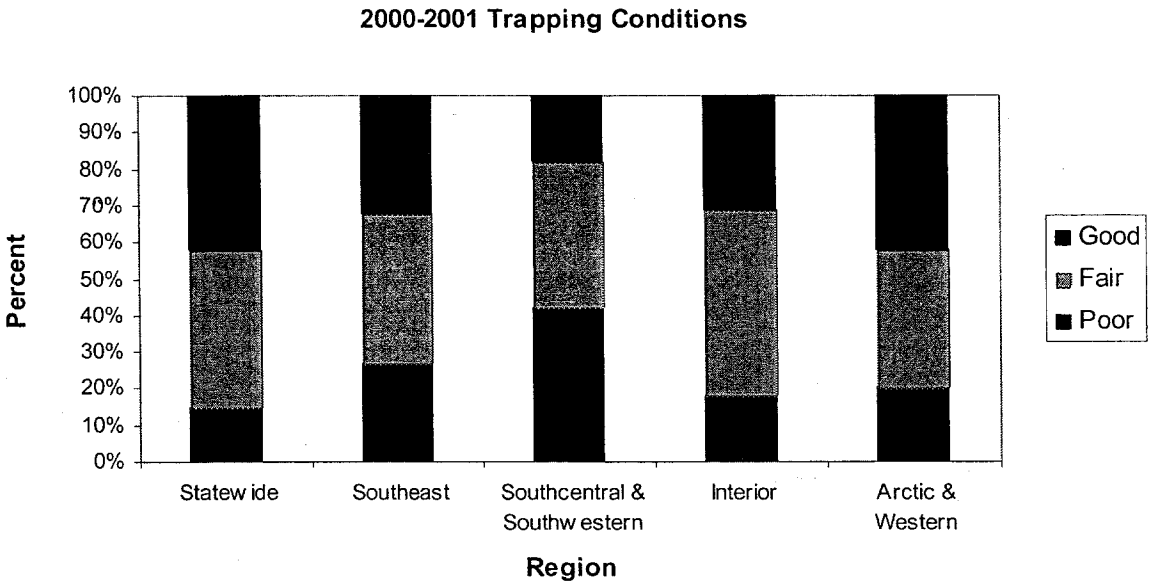
How did you change your trapping effort for the 2000–2001 season?

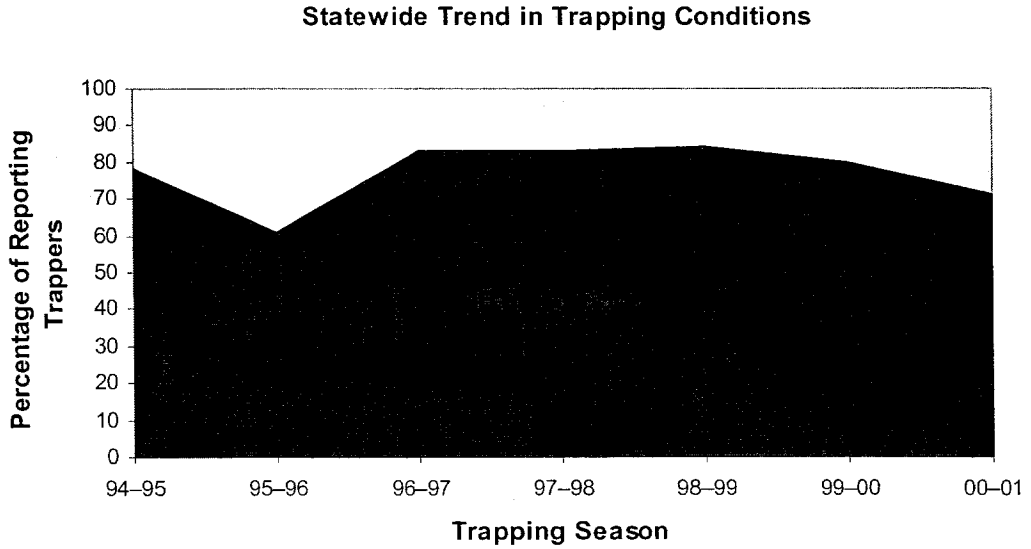
The chart below illustrates changes trappers made during the 2000–2001 season. In the chart above, a general increase in the number of weeks trapped is reported even though, statewide ninety-three individual trappers indicated they decreased the number of weeks trapped.



What were the trapping conditions on your trapline?

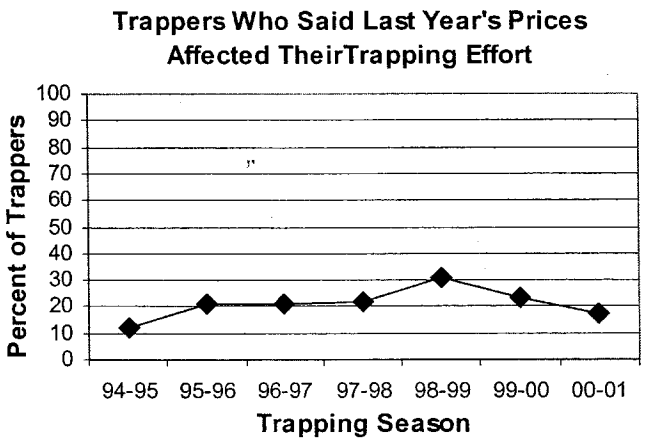
Approximately 70% of trappers who returned the 2000–2001 questionnaire indicated the conditions were fair to good. These charts illustrate condition responses by region and sho a trend in condition responses for the last several trapping seasons.

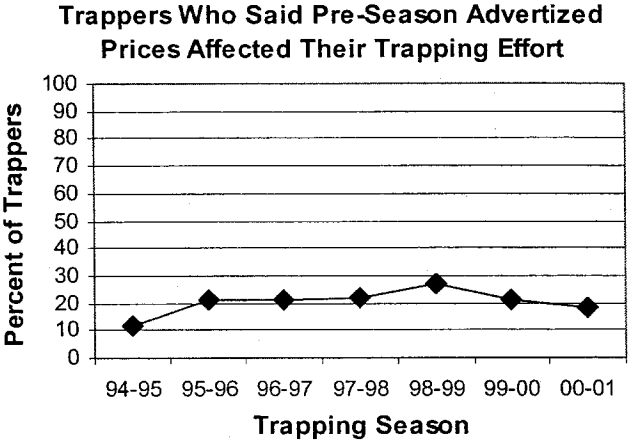




Did last year's fur prices or the pre-season advertised prices affect your trapping effort in the 2000–2001 trapping season?

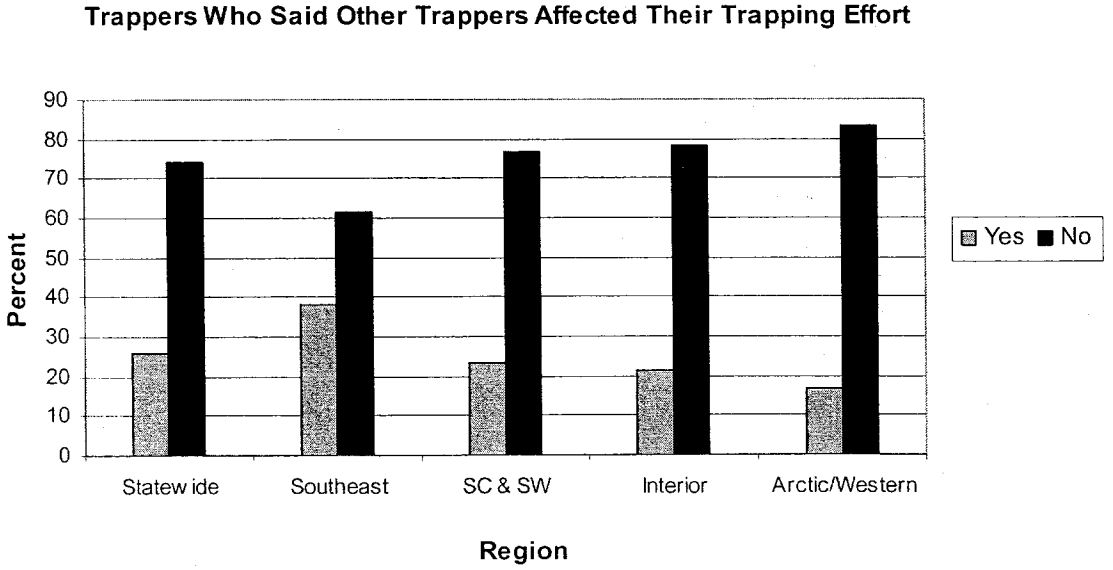
Statewide, most trappers (>80%) indicated that last year's price for fur and this year's preseason advertised prices did not affect their trapping effort. 17% of trappers said last year's fur prices affected their trapping effort and 18% of trappers said pre-season advertised prices affected their trapping effort.





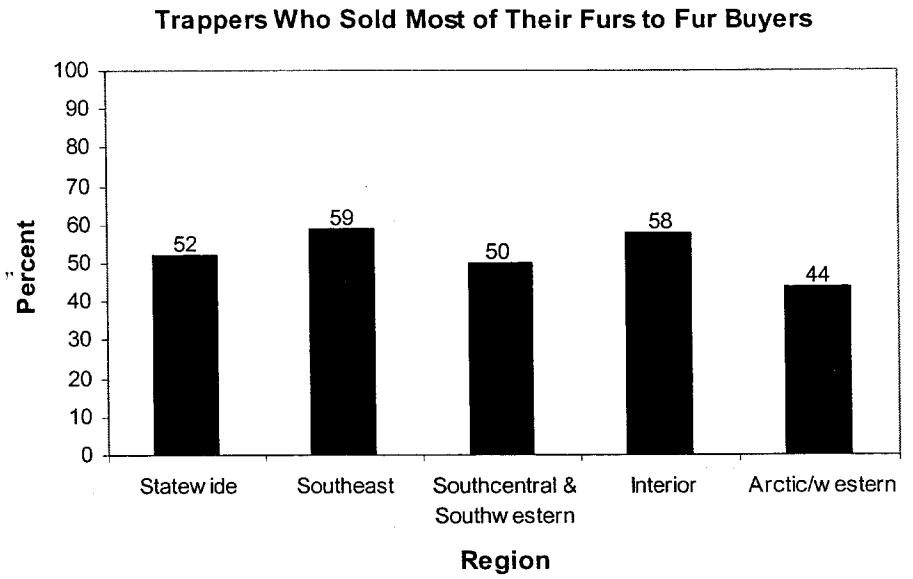
Did the presence of other trappers in the area that you trap affect your trapping effort in 2000–2001?

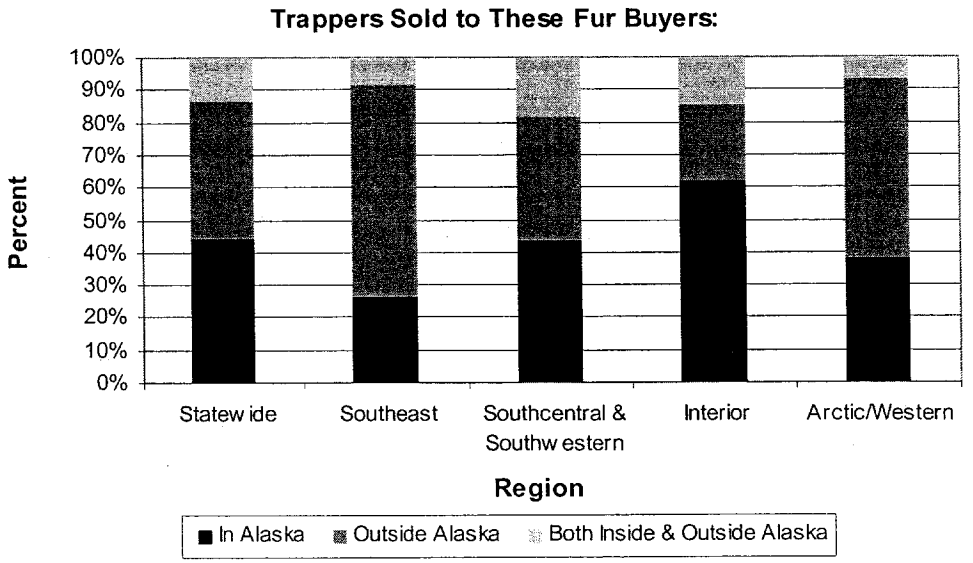
Approximately 25% of responding trappers indicated changes in effort based on the presence of other trappers. The chart below shows responses from each region and statewide.



Did you keep or sell most of your furs?

Over 50% of trappers statewide kept their furs rather than selling them. In Region V (Arctic/ Western), 44% of trappers kept their furs.



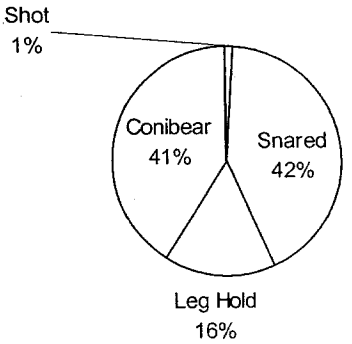


Statewide, trappers sold their furs equally between Alaskan and outside fur buyers. By region, Southeast and the Arctic/Western regions sold more furs to outside buyers and Southcentral/ Southwestern and Interior trappers sold most furs to Alaskan buyers. The difference may be due to the proximity of fur buyers in Anchorage and Fairbanks making it easier for trappers in those areas to sell furs locally. In Southeast and the Arctic/Western Regions it may be more economic to sell furs outside of Alaska because of the lack of fur dealers.

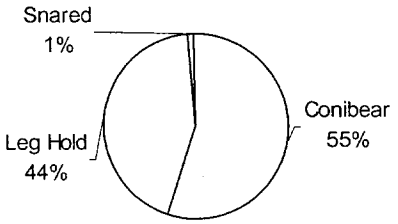
Methods of Taking Furbearers

This year, we again asked trappers to document the approximate percentage of animals taken by a variety of traps. These data provide us with information on trap type and trapping strategies for different species in each region.

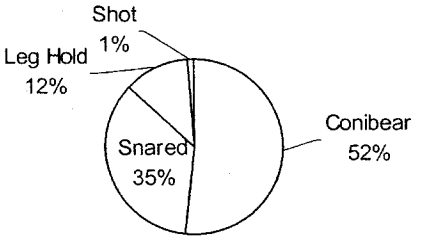
Statewide Beaver Trapping Methods
(110 Trappers Reported)



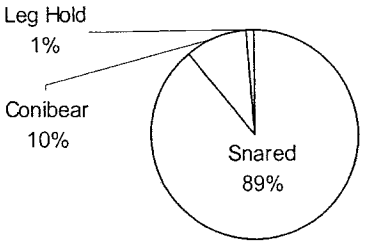
Southeastern Beaver Trapping Methods
(24 Trappers Reported)



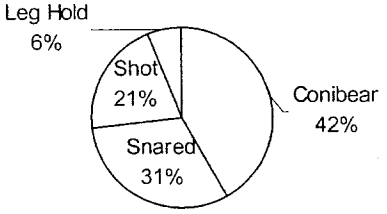
Southcentral & Southwestern Beaver Trapping Methods
(50 Trappers Reported)



Interior Beaver Trapping Methods
(50 Trappers Reported)

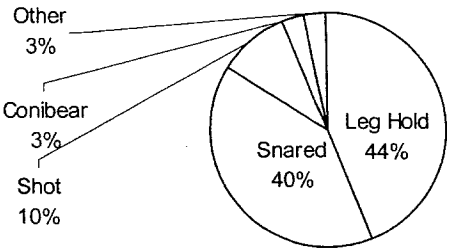


Arctic/Western Beaver Trapping Methods
(7 Trappers Reported)

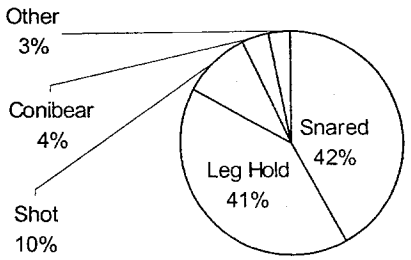


Methods of Taking Furbearers

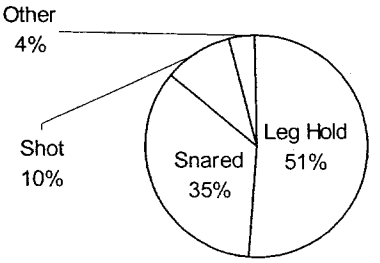
Statewide Coyote Trapping Methods
(62 Trappers Reported)



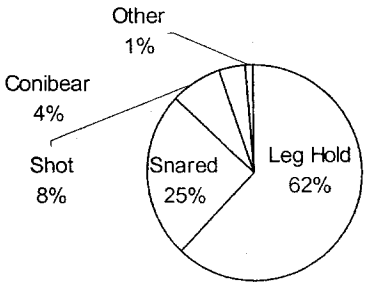
Southcentral & Southwestern
Coyote Trapping Methods
(40 Trappers Reported)



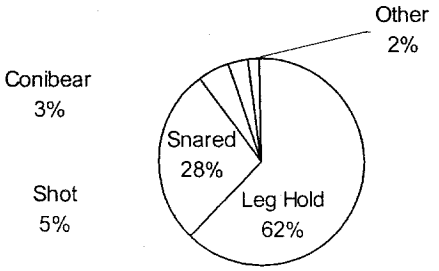
Interior Coyote Trapping Methods
(21 Trappers Reported)



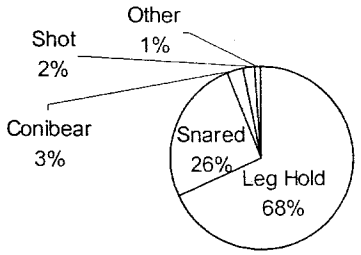
Fox Statewide Trapping Methods
(134 Trappers Reported)



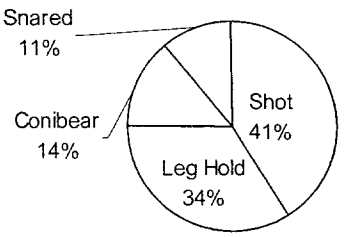
Interior Fox Trapping Methods
(50 Trappers Reported)



Southcentral & Southwestern
Fox Trapping Methods
(65 Trappers Reported)

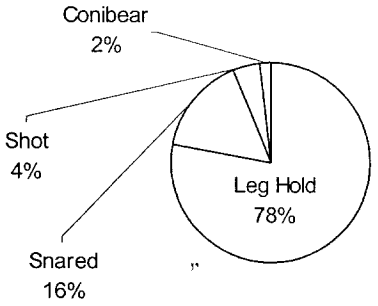


Arctic/Western Fox Trapping Methods
(18 Trappers Reported)

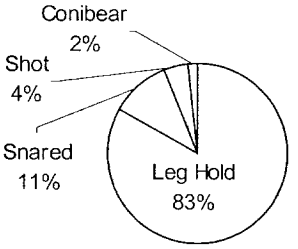


Methods of Taking Furbearers

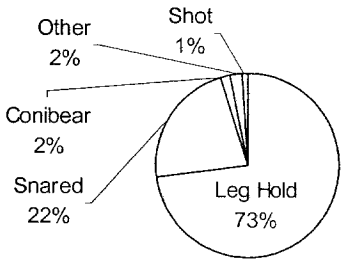
Statewide Lynx Trapping Methods (113 Trappers Reported)



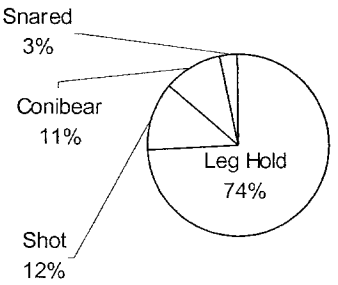
Southcentral & Southwestern Lynx Trapping Methods (45 Trappers Reported)



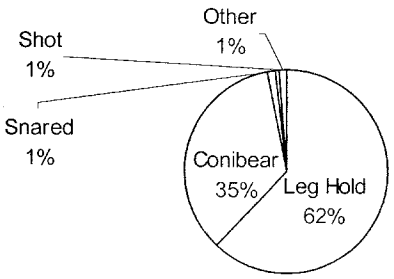
Interior Lynx Trapping Methods (57 Trappers Reported)



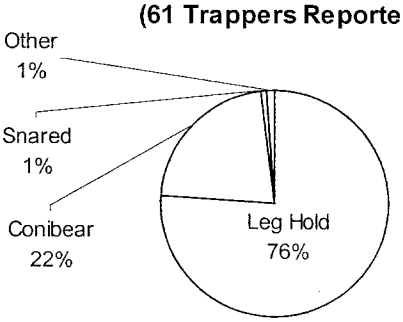
Arctic/Western Lynx TrappingMethods (9 Trappers Reported)



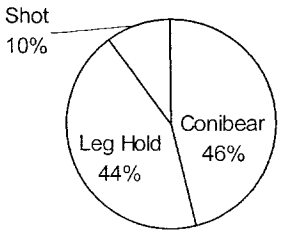
Statewide Marten Trapping Methods (171 Trappers Reported)



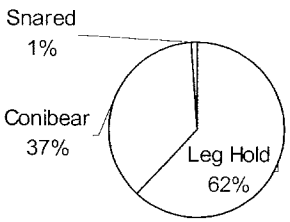
Interior MartenTrapping Methods (61 Trappers Reported)



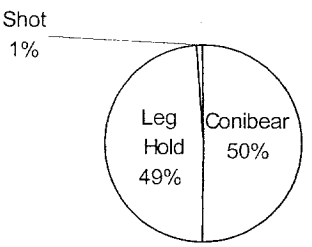
Arctic/Western Marten Trapping Methods (10 Trappers Reported)



Southcentral & Southwestern Marten Trapping Methods (55 Trappers Reported)

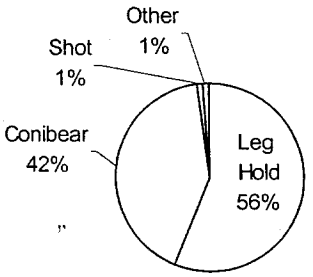


Southeastern Marten Trapping Methods (45 Trappers Reported)

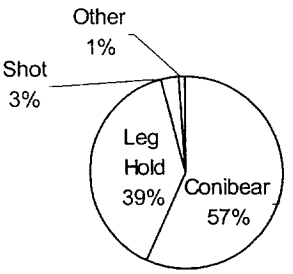


Methods of Taking Furbearers

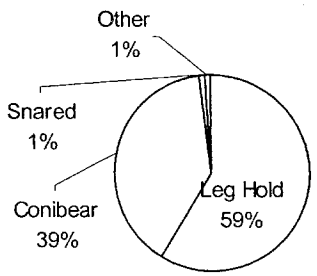
Statewide
Mink Trapping Methods
(106 Trappers Reported)



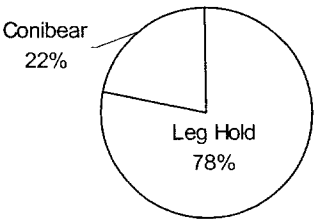
Southeastern
Mink Trapping Methods
(32 Trappers Reported)



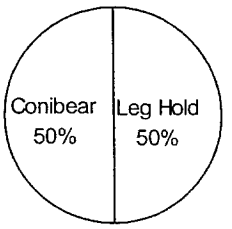
Southcentral & Southwestern
Mink Trapping Methods
(46 Trappers Reported)



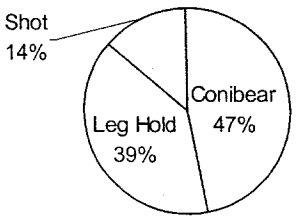
Interior
Mink Trapping Methods
(20 Trappers Reported)



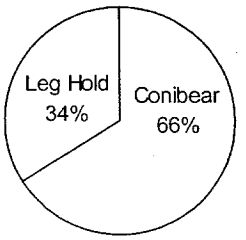
Arctic/Western
MinkTrapping Methods
(8 Trappers Reported)



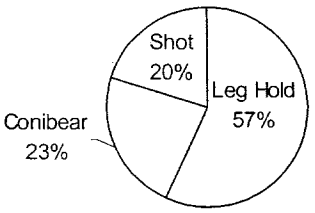
Statewide
Muskrat Trapping Methods
(29 Trappers Reported)



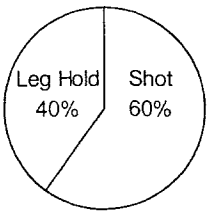
Southcentral & Southwestern
Muskrat Trapping Methods
(19 Trappers Reported)



Interior
Muskrat Trapping Methods
(5 Trappers Reported)

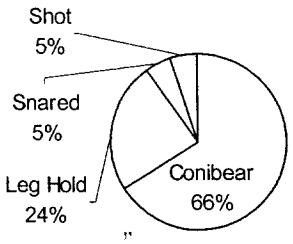


Arctic/Western
Muskrat Trapping Methods
(5 Trappers Reported)

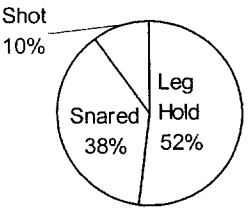


Methods of Taking Furbearers

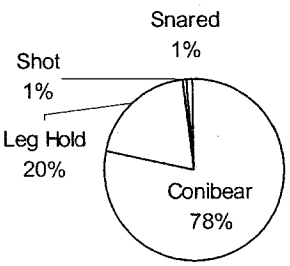
Statewide
River Otter Trapping Methods
(84 Trappers Reported)



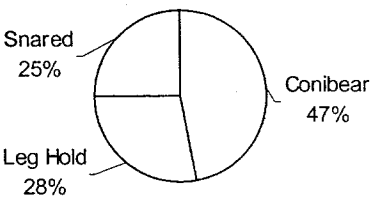
Southeastern
Wolf Trapping Methods
(22 Trappers Reported)



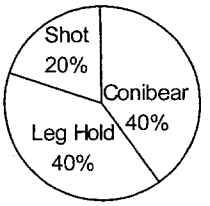
Southcentral & Southwestern
River Otter Trapping Methods
(39 Trappers Reported)



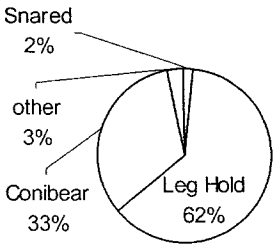
Interior
River Otter Trapping Methods
(12 Trappers Reported)



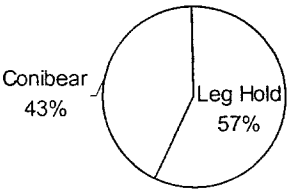
Arctic/Western
River Otter Trapping Methods
(5 Trappers Reported)



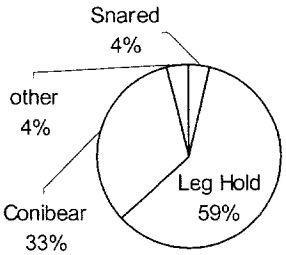
Statewide
Ermine Trapping Methods
(61 Trappers Reported)



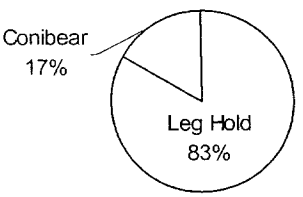
Southeastern
Ermine Trapping Methods
(14 Trappers Reported)



Southcentral & Southwestern
Ermine Trapping Methods
(26 Trappers Reported)

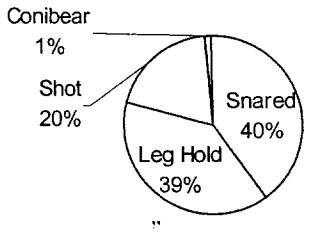


Interior
Ermine Trapping Methods
(15 Trappers Reported)

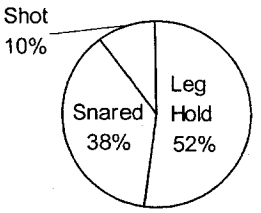


Methods of Taking Furbearers

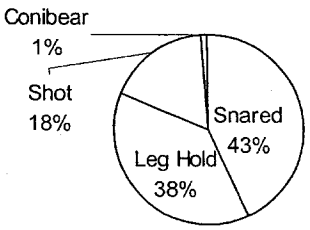
Statewide
Wolf Trapping Methods
(131 Trappers Reported)



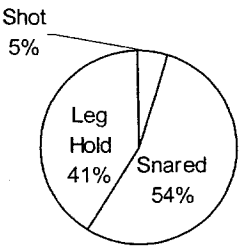
Southeastern
Wolf Trapping Methods
(22 Trappers Reported)



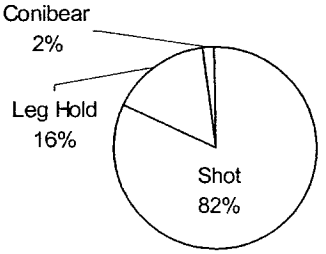
Southcentral & Southwestern
Wolf Trapping Methods
(40 Trappers Reported)



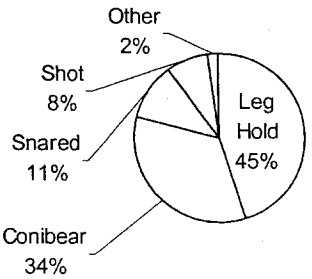
Interior
Wolf Trapping Methods
(52 Trappers Reported)



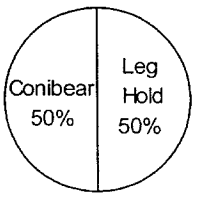
Arctic/Western
Wolf Trapping Methods
(17 Trappers Reported)



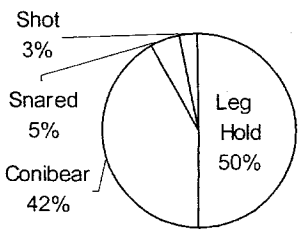
Statewide
Wolverine Trapping Methods
(77 Trappers Reported)



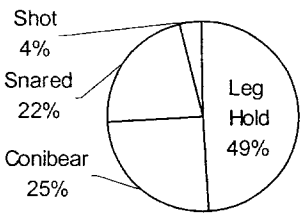
Southeastern
Wolverine Trapping Methods
(5 Trappers Reported)



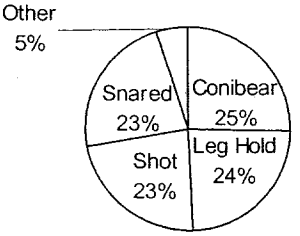
Southcentral & Southwestern
Wolverine Trapping Methods
(27 Trappers Reported)



Interior
Wolverine Trapping Methods
(28 Trappers Reported)



Arctic/Western
Wolverine Trapping Methods
(17 Trappers Reported)



Alaska's Furbearer Populations-Tell Us What is Happening

The following tables represent our efforts to continue tracking the furbearer populations in Alaska. Though several species are required to be sealed, one of the best sources of information the department has been you, the trapper. Your information about furbearer populations and trends is indispensable. Thank you for your help; when you are in the field, please keep track of the animals you see.

SPECIES RELATIVE ABUNDANCE AND POPULATION TRENDS

The species relative abundance index is based on work with snowshoe hares in Alberta, Canada by Lloyd Keith and Christopher Brand. Keith and Brand compared the results of responses to a trapper questionnaire with their estimates of hare densities based on their own fieldwork and noted a good relationship between these two data sources. Keith and Brand developed an index for the responses received from trappers on the questionnaire. A numerical value was assigned to each of three responses: 1 = scarce, 2 = common, and 3 = abundant. The value of the abundance index then was derived from a mathematical equation that expresses the cumulative response value of trappers in a given region as a percentage of the range of possible values:

$$I = [(\sum_{i=1}^{n} R_i - n)/2n] \times 100$$

Where I = abundance index

R = numerical value (1 = scarce, 2 = common, 3 = abundant)

n = number of trappers reporting

The abundance index (I) ranges from 0% to 100%. Index values of 0–19% indicated animals were scarce, 20–50% indicated animals were common, and values greater than 50% indicated animals were abundant. In the following tables, we converted these values back to the appropriate category: scarce, common, or abundant. The above calculation was applied to express species abundance and population trends.

We do not know if the same ranges of percentages are appropriate for animals in Alaska, as these ranges were for snowshoe hares in Alberta. However, this index does provide a way to generally compare trappers' interpretations of species abundance in a given area over time and can be very helpful when used in conjunction with other abundance indicators.

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations Statewide and the Arctic & West Coast Region, 2000-2001.

	Statewide Average		Arctic & West Coast Region GMUs 18, 22, 23, 26A	
Furbearer:	**Relative Abundance**	**Trend**	**Relative Abundance**	**Trend**
Arctic Fox	common	more	abundant	more
Beaver	abundant	same	abundant	more
Coyote	common	more	scarce	same
Ermine	common	same	common	same
Lynx	common	more	common	more
Marten	common	same	common	same
Mink	common	same	common	more
Muskrat	common	same	common	same
Red Fox	abundant	more	abundant	more
Red Squirrel	abundant	more	common	same
River Otter	common	more	common	more
Wolf	common	more	common	more
Wolverine	common	same	common	more
Prey				
Grouse	common	same	common	same
Hare	common	same	abundant	more
Ptarmigan	common	more	abundant	more
Mice/Rodents	abundant	same	abundant	more

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations in Interior Alaska, 2000-2001.

Interior Region

	Lower Tanana Basin GMUs 20ABCDF, 25C		Upper Tanana Basin GMUs 12, 20E		Upper Kuskokwim, Innoko & Nowitna GMUs 19, 21A		Middle Yukon & Koyukuk GMUs 21BCDE, 24		Upper Yukon Basin GMUs 25ABD, 26BC	
	Relative Abundance	**Trend**	**Relative Abundance**	**Trend**	**Relative Abundance**	**Trend**	**Relative Abundance**	**Trend**	**Relative Abundance**	**Trend**
Furbearers:										
Arctic Fox	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	scarce	same	scarce	fewer
Beaver	common	same	scarce	same	abundant	more	common	same	abundant	same
Coyote	common	more	common	same	scarce	more	scarce	same	scarce	same
Ermine	common	same	scarce	same	common	same	common	same	common	more
Lynx	abundant	more	abundant	same	scarce	more	abundant	same	common	more
Marten	scarce	same	common	same	abundant	more	common	same	common	same
Mink	common	fewer	scarce	same	scarce	same	scarce	same	scarce	fewer
Muskrat	scarce	same	common	more	scarce	same	scarce	same	common	more
Red Fox	abundant	same	abundant	same	common	same	abundant	more	scarce	fewer
Red Squirrel	abundant	same	abundant	same	abundant	more	abundant	more	abundant	more
River Otter	common	same	scarce	same	common	same	abundant	more	scarce	more
Wolf	common	same	common	more	abundant	more	abundant	more	common	same
Wolverine	scarce	same	scarce	more	common	fewer	abundant	scarce	scarce	same
Prey										
Grouse	scarce	same	common	fewer	common	fewer	common	same	scarce	same
Hare	common	same	scarce	fewer	common	same	abundant	more	common	fewer
Ptarmigan	common	same	common	same	common	same	abundant	more	abundant	same
Mice/Rodents	common	same	common	same	abundant	more	abundant	same	common	same

1. X indicates no data available or species does not occure in the area.

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southcentral Alaska, 2000-2001.

Southcentral Region

	Copper River & Upper Susitna River Basins GMUs 11, 13		Lower Susitna Basin GMUs 14, 16		Prince William Sound & North Gulf Coast GMU 6		Kenai Peninsula GMUs 7,15		Kodiak Archipelago GMU 8	
	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend
Furbearers:										
Arctic Fox	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]
Beaver	common	same	abundant	more	abundant	more	common	same	common	more
Coyote	common	more	common	more	abundant	more	abundant	same	x[1]	x[1]
Ermine	common	same	common	same	abundant	more	abundant	same	common	same
Lynx	common	more	scarce	more	scarce	more	common	more	x[1]	x[1]
Marten	common	same	abundant	more	common	same	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]
Mink	common	same	abundant	more	abundant	more	abundant	more	x[1]	x[1]
Muskrat	common	same	common	same	abundant	more	common	same	x[1]	x[1]
Red Fox	common	same	abundant	more	scarce	same	scarce	fewer	abundant	same
Red Squirrel	abundant	same	abundant	more	abundant	same	abundant	more	common	more
River Otter	common	same	common	more	common	same	common	same	abundant	more
Wolf	common	same	common	more	common	more	common	more	x[1]	x[1]
Wolverine	scarce	same	common	same	common	same	scarce	same	x[1]	x[1]
Prey										
Grouse	common	same	common	same	common	same	common	same	x[1]	x[1]
Hare	common	same	abundant	more	abundant	more	common	same	abundant	same
Ptarmigan	common	same	common	more	abundant	more	common	same	common	same
Mice/Rodents	abundant	same	abundant	more	abundant	same	abundant	fewer	common	more

1. X Indicates no data available or species does not occur in the area.

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southwestern and Southeastern Alaska, 2000-2001.

	Southwest Region				Southeast Region							
	Bristol Bay Area GMU 17		Alaska Peninsula GMUs 9, 10		Ketchikan, Prince of Whales & Vicinity GMUs 1A, 2		Petersburg, Wrangell, Kupreanof & Vicinity GMUs 1B, 3		Juneau, Douglas, Haines, Yakutat GMUs 1CD, 5		Admirality, Baranof, Chichagof Islands GMU 4	
	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend
Furbearers:												
Arctic Fox	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]
Beaver	abundant	more	abundant	more	common	same	abundant	same	abundant	same	scarce	same
Coyote	scarce	more	common	more	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	scarce	same	x[1]	x[1]
Ermine	common	same	common	more	common	same	common	more	common	same	scarce	same
Lynx	scarce	same	common	same	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	scarce	more	x[1]	x[1]
Marten	common	more	common	same	abundant	more	common	same	common	same	abundant	more
Mink	common	more	abundant	more	abundant	more	abundant	more	common	same	abundant	same
Muskrat	scarce	more	scarce	more	x[1]	x[1]	scarce	same	scarce	same	x[1]	x[1]
Red Fox	abundant	more	abundant	same	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	scarce	same	x[1]	x[1]
Red Squirrel	common	same	common	same	abundant	same	abundant	more	abundant	same	abundant	more
River Otter	abundant	more	common	more	abundant	more	abundant	same	common	more	abundant	more
Wolf	abundant	more	abundant	more	common	same	abundant	more	common	more	x[1]	x[1]
Wolverine	common	same	common	same	scarce	x[1]	scarce	same	scarce	more	x[1]	x[1]
Prey												
Grouse	common	same	abundant	same	scarce	same	common	same	common	same	scarce	same
Hare	common	more	abundant	more	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	x[1]	common	same	x[1]	x[1]
Ptarmigan	abundant	more	abundant	more	scarce	same	scarce	same	scarce	same	scarce	same
Mice/Rodents	abundant	more	abundant	same	abundant	same	abundant	same	common	same	common	same

1. X Indicates no data available or species does not occur in the area.

Wolf Harvest Methods

The following table is compiled from mandatory wolf-sealing certificates from 1996 through 2000.

1996-1997 Trapping Season

Region	Shot	Trapped	Snared	Unknown	Total Wolves Sealed
Southeast	58	110	81	3	252
Southcentral	149	104	60	22	335
Interior	161	166	352	28	707
Arctic	87	45	2	14	148
Total	**455**	**425**	**495**	**67**	**1442**

1997–1998 Trapping Season

Region	Shot	Trapped	Snared	Unknown	Total Wolves Sealed
Southeast	33	98	38	3	172
Southcentral	193	144	81	4	422
Interior	114	172	225	12	523
Arctic	42	39	4	20	105
Total	**382**	**453**	**348**	**39**	**1222**

1998–1999 Trapping Season

Region	Shot	Trapped	Snared	Unknown	Total Wolves Sealed
Southeast	55	70	49	1	175
Southcentral	208	163	65	6	442
Interior	173	212	288	6	679
Arctic	90	34	2	20	146
Total	**526**	**479**	**404**	**33**	**1442**

1999–2000 Trapping Season

Region	Shot	Trapped	Snared	Unknown	Total Wolves Sealed
Southeast	59	107	55	3	224
Southcentral	324	143	100	12	579
Interior	193	225	241	17	676
Arctic	146	37	24	29	236
Total	**722**	**512**	**420**	**61**	**1715**

2000–2001 Trapping Season

Region	Shot	Trapped	Snared	Unknown	Total Wolves Sealed
Southeast	33	37	19	0	89
Southcentral	239	143	154	16	552
Interior	221	181	361	13	776
Arctic	106	3	7	10	126
Total	**599**	**364**	**541**	**39**	**1543**

Alaska's Furbearer Harvest

Beaver, Lynx, river otter, wolf and wolverine are required to be sealed statewide. Marten are required to be sealed in Game Management Units 1–7, 13E, 14–16. Harvest estimates are based on fur sealing records.

Species	Region	Reported Harvest 1996–97	Reported Harvest 1997–98	Reported Harvest 1998–99	Reported Harvest 1999–00	Reported Harvest 2000–01†
Beaver*	Southeast	420	443	189	477	116
	Southcentral/Southwestern	2075	1350	1232	1145	1521
	Interior	3034	2147	1334	1057	1288
	Arctic/Western	1401	1359	461	397	117
	Total Beaver	**6930**	**5299**	**3216**	**3076**	**3042**
Lynx	Southeast	6	0	0	0	13
	Southcentral/Southwestern	336	702	553	755	874
	Interior	1372	2145	2180	2191	2810
	Arctic/Western	54	63	49	66	132
	Total Lynx	**1768**	**2910**	**2782**	**3012**	**3829**
Otter	Southeast	410	645	544	506	229
	Southcentral/Southwestern	735	553	409	358	467
	Interior	225	113	58	81	110
	Arctic/Western	538	481	153	75	145
	Total Otter	**1908**	**1792**	**1164**	**1020**	**951**
Wolf	Southeast	252	172	176	225	89
	Southcentral/Southwestern	336	426	506	579	570
	Interior	712	526	679	676	776
	Arctic/Western	148	105	134	236	126
	Total Wolf	**1448**	**1229**	**1495**	**1716**	**1561**
Wolverine	Southeast	39	25	18	26	6
	Southcentral/Southwestern	242	233	170	162	167
	Interior	273	232	227	288	319
	Arctic/Western	95	99	81	76	93
	Total Wolverine	**649**	**589**	**496**	**552**	**585**
Marten**	Southeast	3825	3148	2385	2891	1639
	Southcentral/Southwestern	782	571	806	933	1395
	Interior	10	16	9		
	Total Marten	**4617**	**3735**	**3200**	**3824**	**3034**

* Beaver are required to be sealed in Game Management Units 1–17, 19–21, 24–25, 26B and 26C.

** Marten are required to be sealed in Game Management Units 1–7, 13E, 14–16.

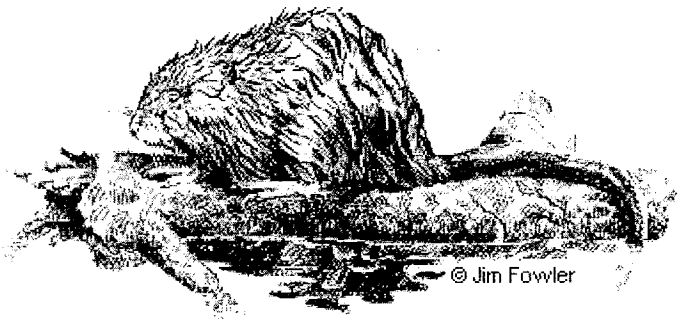
† Preliminary Data. Totals may change due to data entry.

COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING FURS

AVERAGE PRICES PAID FOR RAW FURS BY BUYERS IN ALASKA

Several fur buyers in Alaska were asked for the average and top prices they paid for furs. The values they gave were averaged to produce this table.

Species	1997–98 Average $	1998–99 Average $	1999–00 Average $	2000–01 Average $	2001–02 Average $	2001–02 Top $
Beaver	$32.50	$25.75	$21.77	$20.65	$45.00	$50.00
Coyote	$25.00	$21.67	$22.17	$24.34	$23.97	$35.00
Fox	$15.00	$16.13	$21.97	$17.35	$25.75	$35.00
Lynx	$61.00	$42.50	$54.75	$60.25	$91.00	$125.00
Marten	$27.00	$24.00	$26.89	$35.36	$45.50	$50.00
Mink (wild)	$12.25	$10.25	$13.14	$7.36	$15.84	$20.00
Muskrat	$2.00	$1.31	$1.47	$1.33	$1.73	$3.00
River Otter	$50.00	$38.75	$41.13	$72.82	$59.83	$75.00
Squirrel	$1.00	$0.50	$0.92	$1.33	$0.98	$1.00
Weasel	$3.00	$2.75	$4.00	$4.35	$3.47	$6.00
Wolf	$137.50	$231.25	$213.75	$159.00	$165.00	$300.00
Wolverine	$185.00	$281.25	$233.75	$257.50	$222.50	$350.00



FUR VALUE

The following table summarizes the total estimated value of furs trapped during the 1999-2000 trapping season. The estimated average price paid by Alaska fur dealers was used in this calculation.

1999-2000 Fur Value in Alaska

Species	Total Number	Average Price Paid in Alaska	Total Estimated Value
Beaver*	3075	$21.77	$66,942.75
Coyote**	126	$22.17	$2,793.42
Fox, Arctic**	56	$21.91	$1,226.96
Fox, Red**	478	$21.97	$10,501.66
Lynx*	3014	$54.75	$165,016.50
Marten**	438	$26.89	$11,777.82
Mink**	246	$13.14	$3,232.44
Muskrat**	64	$1.47	$94.08
Otter*	1020	$41.13	$41,952.60
Squirrel, red**	30	$.92	$27.60
Weasel (ermine)**	92	$4.00	$368.00
Wolf*	1718	$213.75	$367,222.50
Wolverine*	523	$233.75	$122,251.25
Total:	**10,880**		**$793,407.58**

* Compiled from mandatory fur sealing records

** Compiled from fur export records

2000-2001 data not yet available

FUR ACQUISITION AND EXPORT

The following table summarizes data from the Report of Acquisition of Furs and Hides filled out by fur buyers (dealers) and the Raw Fur Skin Export Permit (the blue card everyone must fill out when sending raw furs out of state.) These reports are a general indicator of harvest trends but are not actual records of the number of furbearers harvested in a trapping season. Both reports may include furs harvested in previous years, and many trappers keep their furs for tanning and use at home. In addition, some people may not fill out the required forms. If you want more information about fur harvest trends, contact your regional or statewide furbearer biologist.

1999–2000 Fur Acquisition and Export (2000–2001 data not yet available)

Species	Acquisition of Furs By Alaskan Fur Buyers (Number of Furs)	Furs Exported out of Alaska (Number of Furs)
Beaver	52	280
Coyote	11	126
Fox, Blue (Arctic)	0	10
Fox, White (Arctic)	0	46
Fox, Red (Cross color)	26	160
Fox, Red (Red color)	48	290
Fox, Red (Silver color)	5	28
Lynx	89	545
Marten	265	438
Mink	65	246
Muskrat	22	64
Otter, land (river)	39	234
Squirrel, red	4	30
Weasel (ermine)	14	92
Wolf	57	326
Wolverine	27	154
Other	13	110
Total Furs	**737**	**3179**



FUR SEALING REQUIREMENTS

Lynx, land otter, wolf and wolverine taken anywhere in the state, beaver taken in Game Management Units 1–17, 19–21, 24–25, 26B and 26C, and marten taken in Game Management Units 1–7, 13E, and 14–16 must be sealed by an authorized department representative. If you ship furs to a buyer or auction house out of the state, furs must be sealed **before** you ship them.

All raw skins of wild furbearers shipped from Alaska must have a Fur Export Permit (blue shipping tag) attached to the shipment. Also a Fur Export Report (a postage-paid postcard attached to the permit) must also be completed and mailed to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The U.S. Post Office Domestic Mail Manual Regulation 124.65 also requires compliance with this regulation. This 2-part form is free from any Alaska Department of Fish and Game office or authorized fur sealer.

If there is no authorized fur sealer near you, contact the nearest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A list of area biologists is on the next page. We can help you make arrangements to seal your furs. If you or someone you know wants to become a fur sealer, contact one of the following Regional Fur Sealing Officers.

Interior Region	Bob Hunter Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1300 College Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-1599 (907) 459-7211
Southcentral/Southwestern Region	Dr. Bill Taylor Alaska Department of Fish and Game 333 Raspberry Rd. Anchorage, Alaska 99518-1599 (907) 267-2216
Arctic/Western Region	Peter Bente Alaska Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 1148 Nome, Alaska 99762 (907) 443-2271
Southeast Region	Pat Bunting Alaska Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 240020 Douglas, Alaska 99824-0020 (907) 465-4265

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
AREA BIOLOGISTS AND GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS

GMU 1 (A), 2 Boyd Porter Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2030 Sealevel Drive, Suite 205 **KETCHIKAN**, AK 99901 Phone: (907) 225-2475 Fax: (907) 225-2771	***GMU 9, 10*** Dick Sellers Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 37 **KING SALMON**, AK 99613 Phone: (907) 246-3340 Fax: (907) 246-3309	***GMU 19, 21(A),(E)*** Toby Boudreau Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 230 **MCGRATH**, AK 99627 Phone: (907) 524-3323 Fax: (907) 524-3323
GMU 1(B), 3 Rich Lowell Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 667 **PETERSBURG**, AK 99833 Phone: (907) 772-3801 Fax: (907) 772-9336	***GMU 11, 13*** Bob Tobey Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 47 **GLENNALLEN**, AK 99588 Phone: (907) 822-3461 Fax: (907) 822-3811	***GMU 20(A),(B),(C),(F), 25(C)*** Don Young Alaska Department of Fish & Game 1300 College Road **FAIRBANKS**, AK 99701 Phone: (907) 459-7233 Fax: (907) 452-6410
GMU 4 Jack Whitman Alaska Department of Fish & Game 304 Lake Street Room 103 **SITKA**, AK 99835-7563 Phone: (907) 747-5449 Fax: (907) 747-6239	***GMU 12, 20(E)*** Craig Gardner Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 355 **TOK**, AK 99780-0355 Phone: (907) 883-2971 Fax: (907) 883-2970	***GMU 20(D)*** Steve DuBois Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 605 **DELTA JUNCTION**, AK 99737 Phone: (907) 895-4484 Fax: (907) 895-4833
GMU 1(C), 1(D), 5 Neil Barten Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 20 **DOUGLAS**, Alaska 99824 Phone: (907) 465-4359 Fax: (907) 465-4272	***GMU 14(A),(B), 16(A)*** Herman Griese Alaska Department of Fish & Game 1800 Glenn Hwy Suite 4 **PALMER**, Alaska 99645-6736 Phone: (907) 746-6327 Fax: (907) 746-6305	***GMU 21(B),(C),(D), 24*** Glenn Stout Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 209 **GALENA**, Alaska 99741 Phone: (907) 656-1345 Fax: (907) 656-1345
GMU 6 Dave Crowley Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 669 **CORDOVA**, Alaska 99574 Phone: (907) 424-3215 Fax: (907) 424-3235	***GMU 14(C), 16(B)*** Rick Sinnott Alaska Department of Fish & Game 333 Raspberry Road **ANCHORAGE**, Alaska 99518 Phone: (907) 267-2185 Fax: (907) 267-2433	***GMU 22*** Kate Persons Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 1148 **NOME**, Alaska 99762 Phone: (907) 443-2271 Fax: (907) 443-5893
GMU 7, 15 Ted Spraker Alaska Department of Fish & Game 34828 Kalifornsky Beach Rd Ste B **SOLDOTNA**, Alaska 99669-8367 Phone: (907) 260-2905 Fax: (907) 262-4709	***GMU 17*** Jim Woolington Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 1030 **DILLINGHAM**, Alaska 99576 Phone: (907) 842-2334 Fax: (907) 842-5514	***GMU 23*** Jim Dau Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 689 **KOTZEBUE**, Alaska 99752 Phone: (907) 442-3420 Fax: (907) 442-2420
GMU 7, 15 Gino Del Frate Alaska Department of Fish & Game 3298 Douglas Place **HOMER**, Alaska 99603-8027 Phone: (907) 235-8191 Fax: (907) 235-2448	***GMU 18*** Roger Seavoy Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 1467 **BETHEL**, Alaska 99559 Phone: (907) 543-2979 Fax: (907) 543-2021	***GMU 25(A),(B),(D), 26(B),(C)*** Bob Stephenson Alaska Department of Fish & Game 1300 College Road **FAIRBANKS**, Alaska 99701 Phone: (907) 459-7236 Fax: (907) 459-6410
GMU 8 Larry Van Daele Alaska Department of Fish & Game 211 Mission Road **KODIAK**, Alaska 99615 Phone: (907) 486-1876 Fax: (907) 486-1869		***GMU 26(A)*** Geoff Carroll Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 1284 **BARROW**, Alaska 99723-1284 Phone: (907) 852-3464 Fax: (907) 852-3465

(Revised 5/2002)

FISH AND GAME FURBEARER BIOLIGIST'S REPORTS

STATE, NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL FUR ISSUES FACING ALASKA

Steve Peterson
Statewide Furbearer Coordinator

During the past year I continued to represent Alaskan trappers on issues directly affecting their lifestyle. These efforts have primarily involved membership on the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) Furbearer Resources Technical Work Group. This year's work on that committee continued to focus on testing more restraining traps nationwide, finalizing an Eastern Coyote Best Management Practices (BMP) document, discussing products generated from the national outreach project, assessing public knowledge on trapping related issues and determining the best ways to inform various publics about trapping and furbearer management.

State Level

This winter I obtained some tanned bobcat pelts trapped on the BMP project and distributed them to various ADF&G area offices for educational purposes. I think the area biologists appreciated getting them because even though bobcats are not present in Alaska, the pelts provide a means to show kids the differences between two similar cats, lynx and bobcat that are trapped in North America while emphasizing the characteristics of lynx that make them uniquely adapted to cold, northern climates

I am in the process of obtaining copies of two trapping videos produced in the National Outreach Project and these will be distributed to Area Offices when they arrive. The first one "*Trapping Matters*" was designed to be used in hunter education classes and the other, "*Regulated Trapping and Furbearer Management in the United States,*" is aimed at educating the general public about the benefits of regulated trapping. This latter video provides an explanation of how trapping can help balance our ecosystems and also how trapping regulations and trapper education courses encourage safe, responsible furbearer management.

Sometime this spring I'll also be getting 1800 copies of a new 40+ page booklet titled "*Trapping and Furbearer Management.*" Alaska also has the option of receiving as many additional copies as we want from the first printing for $0.43 each. I will probably order a couple thousand of these additional copies because once the initial printing runs out, copies from the second printing will cost $5.00 each. I intend to give: 1) each person who answers our furbearer questionnaire in the coming year a free copy; 2) give a substantial number of copies to each regional and area office for distribution to trappers who bring in furs to be sealed and other interested members of the public; and 3) give a

substantial number of copies to our state trapper organizations to distribute to their membership.

National Level

I attended one meeting of the Fur Resources Technical Work Group in Charleston, SC (25-28 January) to discuss BMP related matters. My attendance at these meetings is paid for through a grant the Work Group receives from the Department of Agriculture so ADF&G funds do not have to be allocated to support our work in this area. The meeting was well attended by various states, representatives from the National Trappers Association and Fur Takers of America. I believe my contribution benefited furbearer management in Alaska. At that meeting I was assigned writing responsibilities on the *ad hoc* beaver and weasel BMP committees and was also assigned to help write a brochure on lynx.

In 2002 and the six months following, a regional BMP will be drafted for the Western Coyote and national BMPs will be drafted for red fox, gray fox, beaver, weasel and muskrat. A north and/or south BMP for raccoon will be drafted within two years as well as a canid suite BMP. In 2003, BMPs specific to mink, otter, marten, nutria and opossum will be drafted as well as suite BMPs for muskrat/mink, beaver/otter and gray fox/raccoon.

International Level

Things continue to be relatively quiet on the international scene related to furbearers so I have spent little effort in this area. However Alaska has continued to pay its dues to maintain our seat on the ISO TAG (Technical Advisory Group for the US concerning humane trap standards committee). The organizations who have kept up their dues obligation (even though the group has been inactive in a maintenance mode for several years) are: the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, the Missouri Department of Conservation, Critter Control, and the Tomahawk Live Trap Company. It's interesting to note that **none** of the animal welfare organizations (HSUS, ASPC, AWI, and a few other individuals) who so vociferously voted against anything that would have improved the welfare of animals in traps, have not paid dues to maintain the presence of a national committee to work on trap standards when the need arises. These organizations simply were against the use or modification of any traps, good or bad. It will be interesting to see how this lack of financial support may affect their "standing" on the committee whenever it meets again. I predict the "greens" in Europe will bring up the case for animal welfare and traps again in the not too distant future but other individuals who are closer to the European situation than I am think the issue is buried deep enough that the European Parliament will not want to deal with it again. We'll see.

One final note: it looks like I will be retiring late this spring from ADF&G so this will probably be my last report to trappers as Alaska's statewide furbearer biologist. Hopefully, the Division of Wildlife Conservation will see fit to find someone to continue

this function. The duties as a statewide furbearer biologist are not extensive enough to take up all the time of a full time position so it is a matter of whether or not some one in the system is willing to take on the responsibilities in addition to what he or she is already doing. I am convinced, because of many unique furbearers trapped in this state and the conditions under which they are trapped are sufficiently different from the other states, that if someone from the Department is not represented at the table on the various national or international committees, our state will lose when critical decisions are made affecting our trappers. I hope this does not happen.

Good Luck,
Good Hunting, and
Good trapping

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SOUTHEAST REGION

Tom Schumacher, Wildlife Biologist

Harvest of the six furbearer species sealed in GMUs 1-5 during the 2000-01 trapping season was generally close to long-term averages, or within the historical range of harvest. Beaver harvest was the highest it has been in nearly 10 years. The bulk of the harvest came from GMUs 2 (57%) and 3 (28%). These areas comprise the best beaver habitat in Southeast Alaska. Harvest of river otters was a little lower than it has been in recent years at 433. However, that figure is well within the historical range of harvest.

The wolf harvest of 219 animals was similar to the long-term average of 204. Most wolves were taken in GMU 2 (33%) followed by GMU 3 (27%) and GMU 1A (22%). Another 5 wolves taken on Annette Island (GMU 1A) were also sealed, but these were not included in the totals presented here because this islands status as an Indian reservation precludes the need to seal furs taken there.

Martens are the most commonly trapped furbearer in the region with 3204 harvested during the 2000-01 trapping season. This total is down compared to the previous high years of 1996-97 and 1997-98 when over 3700 were taken. Marten populations fluctuate in response to food availability, and this year's harvest was well within the range recorded over the last 10 years. Martens principally prey on small mammals like voles, and a survey of small mammals related to a field study of martens revealed that small mammal populations were low in several areas of the Region. Therefore, we anticipate that the harvest of martens will remain relatively low for the next couple of years until small mammal populations rebound.

The wolverine harvest of 12 was about half that of previous years. Little is known about the status of wolverine populations in the region. Because accessing their habitat can be

difficult and because only a few trappers target wolverines, relatively few are taken in Southeast Alaska. Lynx are another uncommon taken furbearer in Southeast Alaska. However, this year 13 were trapped, mostly in GMU 1D on the northern mainland. Lynx generally are not resident in Region 1. The occurrence of lynx in the harvest is usually related to a decline in snowshoe hare populations in adjacent interior Alaska and Canada. At such times lynx travel widely in search of food.

Numbers of Furbearers Sealed by Unit for 2000-01

GMU	Beaver	Lynx	Marten	Otter	Wolf	Wolverine
1A	28	0	271	68	49[a]	4
1B	1	0	239	10	9	4
1C	27	1	76	8	12	1
1D	11	12	35	3	6	3
2	283	0	943	143	73	0
3	139	0	290	56	59	0
4	0	0	1122	140	0	0
5	7	0	48	5	11	0
Total	496	13	3024	433	219	12

[a] Does not include 5 wolves sealed from Annette Island.

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SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

Howard Golden, Southcentral Furbearer Biologist

The 2000–2001 trapping season in southcentral Alaska resulted in higher harvests than last season for all furbearers that require sealing. Beaver and river otter harvest in the region increased by 33% and 32%, respectively. The beaver catch rose from 1139 in 1999–2000 to 1519 this year, with the biggest increase of 88% (from 159 to 299) coming from the Kenai Peninsula. River otter harvest increased in most areas of the region (from 354 to 468), but rose the greatest in the Kodiak area (Unit 8). Trappers there took 159 river otters this year compared with 100 for 1999–2000. Wolf harvest rose by only 4 animals from last year to 570, with over half of the take coming from the Nelchina/Copper River Basin (Units 11 and 13). Wolverine harvest was also only slightly higher this year than last, increasing from 149 to 167 animals. The biggest increase in harvest for all furbearers that were sealed was for marten, which rose by 53% from 911 in 1999–2000 to 1395 this year. Nearly 68% of the marten harvested in the region came from the Mat-Su Valley/Upper Cook Inlet area.

Lynx harvest in the region overall increased by 18% from last year. Harvests in Prince William Sound, Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula/Aleutians, and Dillingham/Nushagak Basin areas were relatively low and stable. Lynx harvest on the Kenai Peninsula decreased by 33% from last year (146 to 98), which was probably due to a rapid decline in snowshoe hare numbers and poor snow conditions that limited trapper access. The Kenai lynx population was probably one year past its cyclic population peak in 2000–2001 and should continue to decline through 2001–2002. Although not as far along in the cycle as the Kenai lynx, the Nelchina/Copper River Basin population also was probably at the beginning of a declining phase in 2000–2001. Trappers in that area took 79% of the regional harvest of lynx and took 28% more lynx this year than they did last year, which is typical at this phase of the population cycle. The area with the greatest increase in lynx harvest, although still relatively light, was in the May-Su Valley/Upper Cook Inlet area. The harvest there grew from 12 lynx in 1999–2000 to 47 lynx in 2000–2001. It is likely this increase was due mostly to lynx dispersing from the Nelchina/Copper River Basin and other areas experiencing hare population declines.

Lynx and snowshoe hare populations are past their cyclic peaks and beginning to decline throughout Southcentral. Snowshoe hare populations and the percentage of kittens in the harvest have both begun to decline in most areas of the region. Trappers should expect to see shorter lynx trapping seasons for the next few years as lynx and hare populations across the region continue declining to the low points in their cycles. For an explanation about how our lynx tracking harvest strategy works, please visit our web site at http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/fur/trapping.htm.

Harvest of furbearers sealed in southcentral Alaska, 2000–2001.

Area	Beaver	Lynx	River Otter	Wolf	Wolverin	Marten
Prince William Sound	139	2	64	13	8	157
Kenai Peninsula	299	98	52	63	18	134
Kodiak/Alaska	152	33	200	29	21	0
Nelchina/Copper River Basin	239	691	23	301	42	159
Mat-Su Valley/ Upper Cook	376	47	63	83	45	945
Dillingham/Nushagak Basin	314	3	66	81	33	0
Region Total	1519	874	468	570	167	1395

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INTERIOR REGION

Mark McNay, Interior Furbearer Biologist

Lynx harvest reached an 18-year high in winter 2000-2001 with a harvest of 2,810 lynx in interior Alaska. That represents an almost 7-fold increase in the harvest of lynx since 1995-96 when only 439 lynx were harvested in the interior during the low of the 10-year lynx cycle. The 2000 harvest probably represents the peak of the cycle and although we expect the 2001 harvest to be substantial, it probably won't top the 2000 harvest.

Department biologists tracked the changes in lynx population characteristics throughout this most recent cycle. An important indicator of whether the lynx population is increasing or decreasing is the proportion of kittens in the population. Assuming that proportion is reflected in the harvest, we have seen the percent kittens drop from a high of more than 30% in 1996-97 and 1997-98 to only 15% in 2000-2001. Hares, which are the primary food for lynx, have also dramatically dropped in the Tanana Valley within the last two years. That reduced food resource contributes to the low productivity in lynx and when the hares decline, the lynx soon follow.

As the lynx population declines we will reduce seasons for lynx, possibly beginning in the autumn of 2002. First though, we need to evaluate the reproductive information that we obtain from lynx carcasses. Since 1996, Department biologists have conducted post mortem examinations on over 2,000 lynx that were provided by trappers in interior Alaska. We collect a tooth for age (one lynx from taken near Delta Jct. was 15 years old), we exam the reproductive tracts of females to determine how many kittens they produced last year, and we weigh internal fat deposits to get an index to body condition. That information along with the % kittens in the harvest, allows us to use last year's information to anticipate next year's harvest. During the low of the cycle in 1995 and 1996, lynx season's in the road connected areas of the interior were reduced to 30 days, but during 2000 and 2001, at the high of the cycle, we expanded seasons to 120 days, providing trappers with a lot of opportunity to harvest from the abundant lynx population.

Although lynx receive the most attention because of their dramatic natural population cycles, the Department also collects harvest information on other furbearers. Fluctuations in harvest of beaver, otter, wolf, wolverine, and marten also occur but in some cases are driven as much by trapper interest and price than by population fluctuations. For example, based on the winter sales of the North American Fur Auction it appears that 2000 beaver prices were down about 33% compared to prices in 1996; at the same time beaver harvest declined by 54% from 2824 to 1288 in interior Alaska. Marten prices were off 36% in 2000 compared to 1996 prices and the number of marten exported from Alaska dropped from 21,156 in 1996 to 11,133 in 2000. During the current season (2001-2002), many trappers in interior Alaska are reporting low marten numbers. Although we don't fully understand why marten numbers are down, one theory relates marten numbers to the lynx-hare cycle. The theory goes like this, when hares are high not only do lynx increase and prey on hares, other predators such as owls, foxes, and coyotes also increase and prey on hares. Those predators can become quite abundant where hares are abundant. Then when the hares suddenly crash, those predators suddenly find themselves without an abundant food source. Marten are small enough that they could temporarily become a target for those larger predators until those larger predators decline. If this theory is true then marten numbers may increase once the hare-lynx cycle reaches the low.

Responses to the trapper questionnaire help biologist's track changes in populations of fur bearing animals because the Department does not routinely conduct surveys for most furbearers. For example, without the reports from trappers that suggested a recent a sharp decline in interior marten numbers, the Department would have little opportunity to know that marten had declined, because marten are not sealed in the interior and so we have no consistent harvest data. Similarly, it was trappers that first reported the existence of lice

in wolves near Palmer in 1998 and based on samples collected by trappers the Department was able to treat the affected wolf packs and forestall the spread of that parasite. Therefore I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your contributions to furbearer management and I look forward to working with you in the coming seasons. Good luck.

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ARCTIC/WESTERN REGION

Roger Seavoy, Area Biologist, Bethel

Kate Persons, Area Biologist, Nome

Jim Dau, Area Biologist, Kotzebue

Geoff Carroll, Area Biologist, Barrow

The following reports provide harvest statistics for furbearers in the areas that comprise Region V. In addition, area observations are provided by area biologists in Barrow, Bethel, Kotzebue and Nome. If you have additional information or questions please contact the area biologists at the email addresses or phone numbers listed at the end of each report.

Unit 18 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Furbearers in Unit 18 are abundant throughout their habitats. Red fox populations are higher than desired and rabies has been confirmed in several locations. Beaver populations are higher than ideal as well. There is evidence that beaver are trying to occupy marginal habitat and some habitat have been logged excessively. Local residents regularly complain of too many beavers causing problems with boat travel and fish movements.

Mink populations are high. In the 1940s an average of 16,000 mink were taken and in one year during that decade, over 60,000 were taken. Now, fewer than 1,000 are reported. The mink along the Kuskokwim are famous for their size and fur quality. At these low harvest levels, it is clear that this is a severely underutilized resource. Otter populations are high and underutilized as well.

Suitable habitat for arctic fox, marten, and arctic ground squirrels is less extensive in the Unit, but numbers of these furbearers are high where they occur.

Lynx numbers were high as we entered this trapping season, but there is evidence that the downward trend in their cycle has begun. One particularly prolific trapper reports seeing no kittens and those individuals he has caught have been large adults.

Wolf populations have increased and expanded due to the successes we've had allowing moose populations to increase on the Yukon and to the continued winter use of Unit 18 by a portion of the Mulchatna caribou herd. Reported wolf harvests higher than the average of a decade ago but the population could tolerate even more harvest. However, the poor snow conditions make additional opportunistic wolf harvest by caribou hunters difficult.

Wolverine numbers have increased compared to a decade ago as well. This is most evident in the eastern part of the Unit where caribou have taken up seasonal residence.

One furbearer species that isn't abundant in the Unit is muskrat but we still have adequate numbers. Coyotes are found in Unit 18, but the harvest is small.

The number of active trappers is low. Trappers have cited inadequate fur prices as a reason for low trapping effort. This being the case, it is clear that the fur resource in Unit 18 is severely underutilized.

Furbearers are still important for local uses. All furbearers, as well as, marine mammals are utilized for crafts and garments sewn locally. In addition, many furbearers are used for food. Beaver, otter, mink, and muskrats are common table fare in many villages with varying preferences. Lynx and arctic ground squirrels are also eaten. As such, furbearers are still an important part of the economy of Unit 18.

For more information about GMU 18, contact Roger Seavoy at 1-800-425-2979
Roger_seavoy@fishgame.state.ak.us

Unit 22 Seward Peninsula

Most of the furbearer harvest in Unit 22 is by subsistence or recreational hunters or is done opportunistically by local residents while engaged in other activities. The reported harvest of furbearers in Unit 22 during the 2000-2001 trapping season was 55 lynx, 10 river otter, 51 wolverine, and 53 wolves. These are minimum harvest estimates; many of the furs taken are used locally and not presented for sealing, so harvest data is incomplete

Wolf densities are highest in Units 22A and eastern Unit 22B, but harvest data and observations by staff, hunter/trappers and local residents indicate wolves are becoming more numerous in all parts of the unit. The increase is likely a result of the large number of Western Arctic herd caribou that have wintered on the central Seward Peninsula since 1996. The 1999-2000 reported harvest of 61 wolves was the highest ever reported in the unit.

Staff observations and reports from hunter/trappers around the unit indicate that beaver in Units 22A, 22B, 22C and 22D were common or abundant with numbers stable or increasing. We had no reports from Unit 22E but beaver numbers are believed to be increasing in the Serpentine River drainage. Complaints about beaver continue throughout Unit 22. Boaters complain about blockage of waterways and concern that beaver dams are preventing salmon from returning to their spawning grounds. In October

1999 the Board of Game eliminated the sealing requirement for beaver in Unit 22 and identified beaver as a fur animal so beaver can be taken with a hunting license. In November 2001 the Board of Game established a hunting season for beaver in Unit 22. The season is August 1-June 10 with a bag limit of 20 beaver.

Hunter/trappers who responded to our trapper surveys indicated otters in Units 22A, 22B, 22C and 22D were scarce or common and their numbers stable. We have no information about otters in Unit 22E. Both wolverines and red fox were generally thought to be common or abundant throughout the unit. Ptarmigan numbers were abundant and stable throughout the unit.

Lynx are increasing in some areas along with hares, their primary food source. In Unit 22A lynx were reported to be common and increasing. In Unit 22B lynx were generally reported to be scarce but increasing. Survey respondents from the remainder of the unit said lynx were scarce or not present in their hunting/trapping areas.

Our staff is grateful to the hunter/trappers who take the time to fill out the annual trapper questionnaires. The information you provide gives us a much better and timelier picture of changes in furbearer abundance in different parts of the unit than we get on our own. The surveys also help document the importance of furbearer harvest to the subsistence way of life in Unit 22. Thank you for your help!

For more information about GMU 22, contact Tony Gorn at 1-800-560-2271
tony_gorn@fishgame.state.ak.us

Unit 23 Kotzebue Sound and Western Brooks Range [Goodhope River to Cape Lisburne]

Area Biologist Jim Dau reports the population objective for furbearers in Unit 23 is to maintain furbearers at population levels capable of sustaining harvests similar to the period 1985-1995, recognizing that populations will fluctuate in response to environmental factors. Trapping efforts and results in Unit 23 are similar to previous years, with species reports as follows:

Beaver - Beaver continued to expand their range throughout Unit 23. New lodges have been observed in the western portion of the Unit. Only a small percentage of new lodges appear to be in habitat suitable for overwinter survival. Kobuk River drainage residents report beaver populations at "medium" levels and stable or increasing. The Selawik beaver population has completely utilized all suitable habitat. Residents of Selawik village continue to be concerned about beavers damming streams important for seining whitefish and contaminating the village water supply with *Giardia*.

Lynx - Lynx numbers remained low in most portions of Unit 23. The exception to this was in the Selawik drainage where lynx, snowshoe hares and ptarmigan were extremely abundant during March and April 2001. Snowshoe hare numbers had been very high and increasing since 1998. By November 2001 snowshoe hares had declined dramatically in the Selawik drainage and most lynx appeared to have left the area. Not surprisingly, hunters and trappers in other portions of the Unit, such as in the Kobuk drainage, on the

northern Seward Peninsula and near Kotzebue, reported seeing and harvesting more lynx than in previous years. Numbers of willow ptarmigan and mice were generally low throughout most of Unit 23 during the winter of 2001-2002. This probably made lynx travel widely in search of food.

In response to locally abundant and an expanding lynx population, in November 2001 the Alaska Board of Game liberalized lynx regulations in Unit 23. These regulatory changes were expedited to go into effect as soon as possible to capitalize on the increased availability of lynx (they went into effect during January 2002). Hunting and trapping seasons are now November 1-April 15. The hunting bag limit will continue to be 2 lynx per regulatory year. However, the trapping bag limit was increased to 'no limit.'

Mink and Marten - Trappers in the Kobuk report locally abundant populations of mink and marten. As in past years most marten trapping in Unit 23 was in the upper Kobuk drainage. The expansion of marten into the western portion of Unit 23 that occurred 2-3 years ago appeared to have reversed during the winter of 2001-2002.

Red Fox – Foxes were common throughout Unit 23, but overall numbers were lower than in previous years. More cases of rabid foxes were reported during the winter and spring of 2000-2001 than in any previous year since at least the late 1980s. No rabid foxes were submitted to the Department during the winter of 2001-2002.

River Otter - River otters were fairly abundant throughout Unit 23 but, by the winter of 2001-2002, their numbers appeared to have declined from several years ago.

Wolf - Most wolves taken in Unit 23 were shot by local residents using snow machines. Nonlocal hunters took few wolves. Wolves are reportedly more abundant on the Seward Peninsula than they have been since the early 1980s. This is probably a result of the recent presence of caribou in that area.

In November 2001 the Alaska Board of Game increased the wolf hunting bag limit to 10 wolves per regulatory year. Hunting (and trapping) season dates remained the same as in recent years.

Wolverine - Wolverine population levels varied throughout Unit 23. Numbers remained high in portions of the upper Kobuk and Noatak but were lower near Kotzebue than in recent years. According to some trappers, high harvests in the lower portions of these drainages have significantly reduced their abundance.

For more information about GMU 23, contact: Jim Dau at 1-800-478-3420 jim_dau@fishgame.state.ak.us

Unit 26A Western North Slope

In Unit 26A the reported wolf harvest increased from last year. Trappers reported harvesting 27 wolves (23 males and 4 females). Most were ground shot using snow machines for transportation. The most recent wolf census in which was done in 1998 in

the foothills of Unit 26A indicated that the wolf density had dropped to 1.6 wolves/ 1000 km2 from a high of 4.2 wolves/1000 km2 in 1992. It appears that wolves have increased since 1998. The number of wolves harvested and reported is highly dependent on whether a few key individuals are trapping and sealing their furs that year.

Twenty one wolverines were sealed (17 males and 4 females). Snow machines, airplanes and skis were used for transportation. Fourteen were ground shot and 7 were trapped. The last 3 years have been largest numbers of wolverines we have sealed during a year. (21,19,21). The reason for the higher numbers is probably a combination of high wolverine population and more trapping pressure.

It is difficult to maintain fur sealers in most North Slope villages and many people home tan their furs, so the department sealing program is not an effective measure of harvest. A North Slope Borough harvest documentation study indicated that about 25% of wolves and wolverines were sealed during the year of the study.

Arctic foxes were fairly abundant in Unit 26A. Because hunters and trappers are not required to seal foxes, harvest data are not available for arctic foxes. Low fur prices resulted in relatively few foxes being trapped.

Coyotes, red fox, river otter, and lynx are very rare in Unit 26A. No population or harvest data are available.

Rabid furbearers, particularly arctic foxes, continue to be a problem around human settlements. We assisted the North Slope Borough Public Health Department in a program to educate people about rabid animals and having their pets immunized. Rabid arctic foxes are destroyed when they are reported near villages.

For more information about GMU 26A, contact Geoff Carroll at (907)-852-3463
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Trapper Comments

How Did Trapping Conditions Affect Your Trapping Effort?

Southeast

- Same as usual. Wind, rain.
- Winter pretty mild, so going out was easier.
- Open winters seem to scatter the wolf. I've noticed significantly more beaver, otter, mink and marten in their scat during open winters – alternate prey I guess.
- I had to change techniques because of the lack of snow.
- Low snowfall made it easy to get around. Other greenhorn trappers took over many of my sites (especially beaver), so I just gave up on beaver. The bad part is they didn't leave any for seed.
- I couldn't get out and check sets twice because of bad weather. Windy and cold, big waves.
- Only wanted a few beaver hides this winter to tan and put on hoops. They seem to sell well. More effort next year.
- I adjust to different conditions.
- Lots of ice on road reduced visits to line. Freeze, thaw, freeze, thaw – pulled beaver sets.
- I have a beaver problem on my creek so when they populate the area; I set traps to save my trees.
- Leg hold taps would freeze down or open, and small amount of snow made tracking difficult to position sets.
- We had very little snow during the trapping season and the animals didn't come down to the beach.
- It was a slow year.
- Deep snow, hard rain, people taking my traps and animals.
- No snow, warm temperatures and lots of food available, so few marten went to sets by necessity.
- Just made it easy.
- Very little snow and most of the winter was warm with even a number of days with rain.
- May have trapped more earlier had there been more snow early.
- Too warm, low snowfall.
- Didn't get much at all.
- Had to trap certain areas longer to make up for not being able to reach one of my main lines, due to poor river conditions.
- Lack of snow in some areas, excessive in other areas; much warmer than normal temperatures; several severe thaws; lack of rabbits reduced incidental catch of non-target animals.
- Too warm, had to pull all seven sets, for couldn't get away from town.
- Bad weather, couldn't reach most of the line on a regular basis.
- Open winter, low snow level, kept traps ice free and made access easier.
- Things were fine.
- Didn't affect.
- With mild weather, animals didn't move around as much as hoped.
- Open winter made beaver trapping earlier.
- Prolonged some trap checks.
- Ice, frozen in tidal sets for wolf.
- They didn't – best in twenty years, but had to pull traps when I went to Juneau and never got around to putting them back out.
- Mild mid-winter and slower catch rates. Had trappers trapping over me and some gear and animals stolen.
- No snow – couldn't find any sign.
- Lack of snow made gaining elevation for wolverine easier. Lack of ice makes otter trapping harder.
- Went for it as usual.
- Less time on sno-go
- Quit because of poor snow.
- Pushed us to try new methods, run more traps, spread out further.

- No snow, good access.
- Weather was good; the marten didn't come down off the high ground.
- It was a no-snow winter. So I think the animals were scattered and didn't have to come close to the beaches.
- Pretty decent weather. Did not have to contend with icy conditions much for the truck. Boat wise it was a gamble.
- Slow.
- Not much. Didn't hamper our effort getting to traps, just froze up some traps. Was able to get to them easily to check and reset.
- The condition made for good trapping.
- Too many SE storms – couldn't get around.
- Job and limited interest by young boys.
- Lack of snow made access to all areas of my trapline very easy, all season long and makes for good wolf snaring conditions.
- Too warm and wet.
- Didn't.
- Weather was mild and it was easy trapping, but this did not have a major impact on my trapping effort.
- Good weather and flat water allowed more frequent checks of line.
- Windy and warm doesn't make for the best. When it does get cold, bays freeze up, what's a guy to do...
- No affect.
- No affect. All was good.

Southcentral/Southwest

- Warm weather made beaver trapping impossible. There would be this late ice then thawing so ice trapping was difficult during my window of trapping.
- Warm weather long time for Copper River to freeze up and be safe.
- Considerably, would of trapped much harder last year had I known the die off of beavers would be so severe on lynx. From 25 sets of tracks to 5 sets of lynx tracks.
- Late freeze up made it impossible to trap in beginning season. Too little snow, wolverine and wolves stayed high.
- A mild winter, good trapping winter.
- Tons of overflow, pretty warm winter.
- I just trapped enough beaver for some hats and overmitts.
- I only caught a quarter of what I should have.
- It was generally warmer than most winters, so I expected more animal movement. However, that did not happen to be the case.
- I trapped early in the season and no snow made travel difficult. Then late in the season the rain made travel also difficult.
- We had a mild winter.
- Warm conditions made tougher. No snow on side of range made it hard to get around.
- They were good but we had a couple weeks of thaw/freezing rain and refreeze that defeated our sets.
- Warm weather made sets not work as efficiently.
- Wind covered sets with hard-packed snow and heavy snows buried sets unprotected which sometimes resulted in missing a catch.
- Low snow conditions in South Central Alaska allowed me to run a footline in the mountains for the first time. Good snow conditions for wolf trapping in 13A with a snow mobile.
- An early snowfall made it easy to get around by snow-go making it in and out to my trap line. Was smooth trapping in warmer temp. Was enjoyable.
- The freezing and thawing conditions kept me from keeping very many sets working for as long as I would have liked.
- Had to climb the hillside to get to water, pulled myself uphill with rope (note age: 95!)

- Greatly. We did not have any ice so travel was all but impossible. Lack of snow made travel in the woods hard.
- When seasons started off, conditions were good, then mild throughout and decided to trap beaver instead because of going conditions and some lakes/ponds were not accessible due to the mild season.
- Not enough snow, too warm, creeks not frozen.
- Warm weather made travel difficult and hindered the effectiveness of my sets (rain and freezing.)
- More wind and drifting snow.
- Quitting early.
- Too warm early – critters no hand didn't prime up until January. But super good snow after that. Great season ender.
- The fur buyer buying to low price. That is what affects most the trappers and in our area only one fur buyer.
- Early in the season things would have been pretty tough going, but do to no fuel till end of January, conditions were pretty good. My Cessna never froze over this year and more open water but workable.
- Very little trapping.
- Mild winter, ice condition dangerous on river.
- The Wood River not freezing during the entire season kept me working in the general area of my fall lines all season. Also no snow till January kept me on the road all November and December.
- The ice on the rivers and ponds, lakes was thin – made travel conditions dangerous.
- Warm conditions, made less sets this year.
- Warm spells made travel by snowmachine tough.
- Could not work lines due to lack of snow.
- Weather – mild winter.
- Not enough snow.
- Lack of snow in the beginning and also being warm.
- It was a very warm winter and we couldn't get to most of the trapline to put out traps. Not much snow either, so we had a very short trapping season, compared to usual.
- Poor winter, no ice or snow, affected transportation.
- Not much – very little snowfall, mostly set cubby holes for mink, gas prices went up, could not afford to use skiff/boat motor to set for otter.
- We need cold weather. We need snow sooner. We need caribou in our area. Not many animals I target were moving in the warm rainy weather.
- No snow, six days below zero, very mild winter. Lots of water, very little ice.
- Same effort, just less results due to warm weather.
- Warm weather – not sure what affect it had.
- The snow was deep and wind blown, sometimes you just take what she gives you.
- Lack of snow made leg holds impractical.
- Rain and lack of ice on creeks slowed things the first couple of days.
- Warm weather resulted in little snow. A lot of rain affected fox trapping.
- Less snow – was not able to enter some areas other than on foot which is too time consuming for the return.
- The year 2000-01 was a warm one. I didn't start trapping until December because of the warm weather and lack of snow.
- I mainly trap beaver. The weather was so warm I couldn't get on the ice to set snares. However, ice covered the lakes so I couldn't land trap. Plus, lack of snow made lynx/fox trapping difficult.
- Not at all.
- River froze late so I got late start. Some rivers never froze so restricted travel.
- They did not. I just change with the weather.
- Warm spring made open water beaver trapping start three weeks early.
- Unable to get around due to poor conditions and river crossings.
- Warm weather kept me from going after wolves.
- Not much new snow, animals not moving.
- Lack of early snow affected my ability to land the airplane in areas I have trapped in the past. Overflow was bad this year.
- Warm weather this year created a lot of overflow and open water, making some of my trapping area inaccessible.

- Trapping conditions didn't, but a divorce did.
- Poor – weather too warm and wet.
- They did not affect my effort.
- Could have been colder so stream would have froze more solid.
- Occasional heavy snow decreased success. Some pelt damage from prolific other martens in area.
- Poorly.
- Lack of snow and warm weather made it late for me to get out and hard to get around.
- 26' of snow made keeping sets operating quite difficult.
- Not at all. I only trapped four weeks of the season.
- Conditions were good, however, I had an equipment break down that reduced catch.
- It was very mild, making set maintenance very easy. No freezing/thawing.
- Not much effect.
- I mostly walk and we had a low snowfall, so I had no problems.
- Conditions sucked – no snow, no ice, big alders, couldn't get around.
- The warm, wet conditions had a negative effect on my results.
- Warm weather.
- No snow made it very hard to get around off the road.
- About same snow as other seasons.
- Deep snow is a pain in the ass.
- It was very warm and rained a lot, so it was hard to do fox sets. It made it good for mink and otters though.
- Good trapping.
- Too warm – too much open water – river did not freeze until late in season.
- Mild weather kept bear out until late Dec. All sets on line were destroyed shortly after setting.
- Had snow, used snow machine in most areas.
- No snow, lots of rain - could have trapped more, but cut and removed spruce beetle trees for lumber and firewood and worked on my cabin. But look out next winter if we have more snow.
- Mild winters such as this one limited travel over lakes and streams to a minimum. This year's trapline was limited to a short trapline.
- Ice and lack of snow caused problems in travel and resulted in a broken ankle, which forced a decline in effort.
- Ice froze out my 330 Conibear.
- Stormy weather – unable to check frequently.
- No effect.
- Gave it up early – no ice and high water.
- Not enough snow, thus no snow machine access on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.
- The lack of snow made access very difficult to impossible.
- On heavy, deep snowfalls it was tough to keep the sets working and tough to break the trail for the whole line.

Interior

- Tough winter this year. Didn't clean traps well enough for warm weather trapping. Neighboring trappers did well and there appeared to be plentiful sign this year. I got lazy I guess, but I did have fun.
- Made it easy. Rivers froze up good because of the high water in late fall.
- Snow conditions did not allow for good trailing by furbearer onto sno-go trails. Had to
- resort to back up methods to harvest some animals.
- Fair trapping, less snow, late freeze up. Lots of open water.
- It was poor this year.
- Rough.
- Trail was rough due to lack of snow so I didn't trap all of the line – that and starting late.
- Too much rain and warm.
- Limited access to Kipchuck and other drainages.
- Warm weather made ground steel trap sets difficult by freezing or thawing.
- Very poor this winter with the warmer weather and wet snow conditions.

- Blowing wind, warm, no snow.
- Lack of snow in some areas.
- No snow, rained twice. It was too warm of a winter. I had recreational riders run snares over all winter which prevented obtaining furs.
- Low snow and lack of ice early in the season made access into and travel around my line very hard.
- Easy
- Lot of trouble keeping wolf traps working this year. Wind and snow.
- We had little snow early on, so it was kinda rough getting around. I broke a lot of suspension springs, consequently didn't get the whole line out till late November – also, ice was very thin in places so couldn't get over the Tanana till mid December.
- No affect.
- Difficult getting around early so did not trap the distant part of the lines until after Christmas. Worked on foxes first.
- The low snow made maintaining foot traps easier.
- Same as any average year.
- Unable to complete the loop of entire trap line due to lack of snow.
- Not enough good sled dogs so ran shorter mileages. Not much snow so limited snow machine use. Lots of skiing.
- Lack of snow cover resulted in shorter line and reduced catch.
- Low snow – shortened line.
- Warm temps - could not travel well.
- Warm weather allowed more regular checking of traps.
- Low snow year slowed us down.
- It helped due to the mild weather. It hurt because joy riders and trap/fur thieves showed up.
- Could have been more snow Nov 1 – Dec 15. I used more effort than I can remember.
- Warm temperatures and no snow kept me from trapping Nov., Dec., and Jan.
- Not enough snow, too warm.
- There were two and a half to three feet of snow in this area (normal). Never any large snowfalls at one time, 15-20 degrees above normal temperature made for an excellent traveling season.
- Low snowfall resulted in rough trails – snow machine damage, broken sleds. Larger animals not using trails as much. Moose stayed higher up and didn't yard in creek bottoms – didn't lure wolves down.
- Very little.
- Lack of snow at first slowed things down and temperature was too warm at first.
- Warm weather really hurt effort.
- Lack of snow.
- Snow conditions were good, deep snow in the Unalakleet River portion of our line caused caribou not to show, which meant not many wolves present.
- As far as snow cover/shelf ice, etc., the season had very good conditions, but for the exception of the overly warm temps that created some treacherous overflow and open water. What affected my efforts the most was trying to protect some of the low number areas from the weekend warriors and trigger-happys on the haul road.
- Warm weather made getting out better.
- The weather was warm this year so me and my little brother got to go outside more.
- Deep snow early in the season resulting in poor lake ice reduced my wolf/wolverine effort up the Koyukuk River.
- The good weather condition allowed me to check my traps and keep them working.
- I am a small-scale recreational trapper, conditions not an issue.
- Had no affect.
- Lack of snow kept my effort down.
- Warm weather allowed more effort.
- No snow.
- Selected best houses.
- I trapped steady as usual.
- Didn't affect my trapping effort. Conditions were good.
- Warm weather and snow early to get around easily.
- Not at all.
- Mild winter permitted plenty of flying time.

- Most snow I ever had, very difficult.
- Not many fur anymore.
- No effect on my effort – just made things a little easier.
- Overflow and trail conditions not the best. Poor marten sign since the '99 fire.
- Conditions were good – did not put much effort into it.
- Conditions had little influence.
- Lack of snow hindered trail sets.
- Warm weather and wind, rivers not freezing.
- Bad – too many trapping.
- With very little overflow and good ice conditions, I was able to go up the creek anytime I wanted to. This coupled with good traveling temperatures made it so that I caught my target number of marten several weeks earlier than normal.
- This year was interesting – lots of cats and no marten. A marten was worth as much as a cat. The taxidermist market dried up. It was best you make your own market. Tan and select. The local buyers paid $30-50 for cats. The N.A. sold off in May at 6700 ave. Somebody made money.
- Lynx season starts too early. Cat pelts are too flat, belly's not good price on November cat is lower because pelts are not as good. All fur buyers will tell you the same. I don't want to catch early cats but if I try to wait someone else will catch the cat that I am trying to save for a better price. Season should start December 1 – it could go a little longer and you would get better pelts.
- The snow level wasn't enough so it discouraged my trapping effort.
- Very hard, no snow.
- Very mild winter, good trapping weather.
- Traps froze down often.
- More bone spurs showing up on xray of spine.

Arctic/Western

- The deep snow made it difficult to travel far in early winter. Hard snow made it easy to travel in spring. Therefore I made a better effort in the spring.
- The weather conditions and temperature made it more difficult to trap so I didn't go out as much.
- Many fox – easy to trap.
- The mild temperatures kept the arctic foxes closer for a longer period of time. The decent snow depth kept the ice thin for chipping out beaver traps, and the warm weather kept red foxes active.
- First lack of snow then the snow we had had a firm crust so the wolves didn't utilize trails.
- Lots of snow – too warm, slowed one down, made furs bad early.
- It was easy to get wolves and wolverines by sno-go.
- Warm weather, more overflow.
- Normal.
- A lot of wind hindered trapping.
- It stormed too much for December thru March.
- Too little snow to travel.
- Improved riding conditions.
- Stayed home due to bad weather.
- Too warm, not enough snow early.
- Low snow made for a late start. Little snowfall during much of season made for sets that worked for longer periods of time.
- Warm weather in early winter made conditions difficult.
- I made a lot more effort than previous years.
- Early lack of snow and mild temps made trapping easy, though critters didn't move much. Later, heavy snow and wind kept me busy digging. Colder temps helped increase my harvest.
- Lack of snow.
- Late snowfall and stormy conditions when the pelts were prime.
- Almost too much snow.
- Poor snow conditions.
- Lack of snow and too much snow.
- Month of November was too warm, no ice. Month of December all the snow melted so had difficulty

expanding my line.
- Poor snow conditions resulted in limited access and several frozen sets, rivers were a bit treacherous in December-January, overflow open water.
- The road was open into November. Able to drive around more and look for critters.
- Sometimes too warm or little snow.
- No snow, too cold, bad trail. Too much and soft/powder snow.
- Fair.
- No affect!
- Too many "tussocks," not much snow.
- Fox were fairly abundant so it increased my motivation to trap, weather was mild.
- Very little snow made for hard tracking and rough travel.
- Bad weather, lots of wind and snow.
- Not negatively. A couple of weeks were unable to get out due to weather.

Did Other Trappers In Your Area Affect Your Trapping Effort?

Southeast

- A trapper moved in on my line and caught part of my animals.
- A lot of new trappers in 2000-01; they wouldn't know where your sets are, so they would set on top of yours. In normal years snow keeps everyone out of the areas I trap.
- Stayed away from the roads to avoid other trappers.
- Yes, stayed away from the roads.
- Tried to not trap where others were. Since I trapped along the road system, I did run into other trappers.
- Lots of trappers on Mitkof.
- More traps in the area.
- I kept my sets away from other trapper areas.
- A little competition, but nothing like years past.
- One of few years when pilferage affected my traps and contents.
- Lots of high school age kids about. Had to approach traps without leaving trails behind or they would check them.
- Others horning in on my traplines – trappers with little or no ethics.
- Missing traps and animals.
- Only 'X' animals to be caught so more trappers means less fur per individual trapper. Lots of guys take other trapper's fur from trap.
- Wolf effort – two trappers overlapping same area.
- We always try to interest younger kids in trapping, which ends up in a loss of territory.
- First time in four years, but they set over the top of me.
- A new trapper moved in and spread sent/took some of my old sets away.
- Jumped my area early and late before marten were prime. Changes year to year.
- No pressure.
- Seems an increase in local area – maybe poorer economic conditions or I am introducing too many kids!
- I honored other trapper's prior claims to adjacent areas and also targeted mink to avoid competing with established marten trappers.

Southcentral/Southwest

- Non-local weekend trappers sometimes trapped in the same area I trapped. They never disturbed my traps, but because they were trapping in same areas, I set fewer sets and was not able to get much in prime areas because of their presence.

- For second or third year now, other trappers all over me. Was main reason for decrease in my trapping.
- I found more people out and on my line since the increase of wolf population.
- Another trapper trapped downriver on Tyone River, but he did not disrupt any of my sets or affect my ability to run my trap line.
- No, but their presence wasn't welcome.
- Urban trappers & joyriders have ruined it. Also was harassed by Mr. Brian Stevens, our local Fish & Game officer. Complained to his boss, Babcox. Fur buyer Dean Wilson, Alaska Trappers Assoc. Pete Beuist. Brian screwed me and my trapping partner, my son, out of two months wolf trapping.
- Spent October thru December breaking trail then in January others say that it is their area and I have to move traps – saw no old sets or trails.
- If I don't someone will move in.
- Someone months after marten season had closed set traps on my line, which I've been running for thirty years. My traps were all pulled of course, but they could not have helped seeing my set locations. I sprung these traps and returned several weeks later. The person who set the traps never returned. Anything he would have caught would have suffered and gone to waste. People like that give trappers a bad name and destroy animals needlessly!
- Not our effort, but we did have several who road trapped and caused some negative feedback from residents in our area. We avoid making sets north of Matanuska River along highway in order to maintain support of the community at Glacier View. The road trappers (new this past season) did not, to knowledge catch much, but they did damage our relations with non-trappers. '
- I had a guy stealing fur off my line and running it.
- Would try new areas but don't want to infringe.
- People from Anchorage other areas came in without permission and trapped our lines!
- Gradual increase in "road trappers" moving in from other areas and new trappers "line jumping." Becoming almost impossible to allow a line to rest.
- With travel so tough, too many people moved into my area that I have trapped for ten years. A total lack of ethics. I had one wolverine stolen out of a set.
- I was surprised to see the number of trappers on the road system as I did. Didn't make as many sets as I planned, i.e. furbearer management seems to be taking place along the road system.
- Lots of trappers near town.
- Some jerk began trapping some of my areas. He trapped out all the fox and was catching dogs at the PML.
- Our line expansion results in conflict with another trapper.
- I had a "hobby" trapper come close to my line I was expanding, so I had to change directions. Also, I had to set up boundaries so our paths wouldn't cross next year.
- I had a trapper put a snare on my trail I used to check some snares by a wolf-killed moose.
- Two youth trapped close so I just let them go and pulled up stakes. They're our future and my effort was not necessary as conditions were poor to begin with.
- Too many trappers.
- Very few trappers anymore.
- Lots of competition on Lake Road and Land Otter Creek.
- Airplanes and sameday airborne killing of wolves and wolverines still close to an everyday deal. Zero enforcement.
- Lots of trail hunters – chasing down wolves and in the process they scare everything away from the area I'm trapping and looking over my set!
- Only me trapping because of the season.
- Because of high lynx numbers, had a lot of new trappers in my areas.
- Many trails already were taken by other trappers.

Interior

- We are increasingly concerned about increasing snow machine traffic. Pulled traps one week early to accommodate dogsled tour operator using our trails.
- We helped one another, therefore keeping the interest level high (mutual reinforcement between two old curmudgeons).

- A person started trapping parallel to the first three miles of my trap line and trapped all of the lynx I've been saving for the peak year.
- Someone close by go the marten.
- Five different trappers trapping the same species in the same area – road trapping.
- Still have a problem with the unstoppable influx of newcomers created by state land disposals in the Manley area.
- One guy was moving in to the downstream side of the line. We haven't resolved the conflict yet.
- With mild weather, there were intruders and low life trap and fur thieves.
- Some on the road system.
- Close trapping neighbors affect wolf movement through areas I trap.
- Even traplines should be private. Ever since I started trapping in Alaska it's been a constant battle trying to find a place to trap. No matter where you go someone claims it.
- This year all of the local long-term trappers had problems with pilot truck drivers who would run the trapline trails disturbing set structure, shooting fur and in some cases stealing furs and traps.
- I put in more sets on the perimeter to demonstrate established line then in core trapping area. Some,set for show only (blocked petals, triggers, nolare, etc.), but still takes many days extra work to set and remove them.
- Catch the critters faster by putting out more sets.
- They keep moving closer to our area.
- Had a trapper move in on part of my line, can't let an area rest.
- I have to travel a long way to avoid other traplines.
- Another was trapping beaver in same area.
- Local user conflict reduced local wolf effort.

Arctic/Western

- One other guy set along a good portion of my trail.
- Few trappers are out.
- Had to limit marten line so as not to interfere with another trapper.

Do You Have Any Comments To ADF&G?

Southeast

- Keep up the good work
- ADF&G deserves kudos for continuing to manage furbearers and for their support of trapping. I wish the Feds would keep their slimy mitts off the resource and its management, and quit raping the habitat...
- Thanks for the questionnaire. Please send me a copy of your annual fur harvest report. I find it to be very interesting. Tell the enforcement officers that they'll get more with honey than with vinegar. Nobody enjoys talking to the suspicious type of officer.
- There are a bunch of marten in this area. I caught 24 in only 7 leghold sets.
- I don't trap much but wolves anymore. I found it's a lot more fun and very interesting taking a kid our and showing them how to trap and enjoy the outdoors. There is nothing like seeing a kid walk up to a snare and see his first wolf. Unless it is seeing kids I've taken out before grown up now and taking young kids out themselves. It sure feels good to have them come up and thank you for showing them so they can pass it on themselves. It's a lot of fun and I'll keep it up as long as possible. Take a kid, you'll never have a better time.
- After one and half years and a rogue grizzly going through and destroying five places sometimes several times a piece, you would think we would get someone to come out to our community.
- I wolves I killed this winter was to save a few more deer for the Wrangell might hunters.
- I love to trap, but here in Southeast it's so difficult to trap due to the rain and wind. It's hard to keep

your skiff off the beach due to the tide and waves and wind. Also, with the low fur prices and high fuel prices, it's too costly to trap.

- The fur handling video was excellent. Good job!
- I appreciated the fur handling video.
- Keep up the good work. I think trapping should continue in this state regardless of what the outsiders think. It has been a large part of our history and should be our future. Animals (furbearers) are a renewable resource! Also, here in SE the wolf population is definitely not going down. Mild winters and an increase in moose and deer in central SE has fed these animals well – good luck.
- The department should classify the cougar as a game animal and a furbearer.
- This is my first year trapping alone and I wasn't very successful.
- I watched some kids place a 330 conibear 10' from a common use trail. While this was a fine set for the bush, it wasn't safe where people walk with kids and pet dogs.
- Would like you to introduce snowshoe hares to Unit 3 islands so wolves and predators have another food source besides the deer.
- Fur prices are so low that I did not trap 2000-2001 seasons.
- 1999-2000 trapping season I had two young trappers (ages 11 & 15) go with me on trapline. These boys moved to Petersburg and they continue to trap.
- I didn't trap at all for the 2000/2001 season, as the cost of gas was so expensive, I could not justify the expense.
- There is an effort by pet owners and anti-trappers in Ketchikan for severe restrictions on trapping in the area and around the trails. There were some good faith concessions made by trappers to the other side. They made no concessions on their side and will be demanding more restrictions and regulations. Trappers in the area need to be ethical and respectful of other people using the trails in Ketchikan. If we're not careful and informed, we will lose our trapping rights.
- Only trapped one week in past season. Set traps Nov. 15, 2000, pulled traps Nov. 23. Animals seem extremely abundant. Caught 31 animals, mostly marten. Lots of wolf sign. Didn't make any sets.
- Where have all the marten gone? No tracks, no closed traps, no marten. (Finally got one!) Lots of fish to eat, not little critters.
- Close wolf and wolverine season 30 days sooner – bad for late and early bears.
- What limits the age of the kids I bring with me is the half mile from the road the liberals in this town have imposed. Lots of my areas are bushwhacking and some kids have a hard time making the hike. I pray the beaver flood their property so we can hear them cry.
- Probably a waste of my time to point out that except for fun, trapping is dead in SE Alaska.
- I take my son and his friends trapping every year, not to make money, just to get some fur and teach them. Never could make much trapping, but like to get out and do it.
- Trapping is a privilege that should not be taken away from us. We appreciate ADF&G's support and encouragement for the hunter and the trapper. Thanks!
- Why do SE marten have to be sealed when marten taken in other areas of the state aren't sealed?
- I enjoy hunting otter with rifle using a kayak. I would like to be able to shoot beaver in this unit.
- Please increase the trout limit on the northern half of the Prince of Wales Island. Why not limit the charter boats to only one king salmon and one halibut per day?
- This island is experiencing canopy closure, thus important deer habitat is diminishing. I've noticed a definite decrease in deer populations, which, as we know, directly affects the predator's (wolf) populations. We need some openings in this second growth to create more browse. I realize this is a band-aid for a massive injury, yet could help with this problem. We've had road closures, which concentrate the hunting pressure in the areas that are already pretty bleak. On islands, with wolf, the doe season should not exist. Lets see some habitat money become available and do some good on these islands that now just serve as tree farms.
- This year while trapping wolves with a typical tide pool set, I had an incidental by catch of a bald eagle. I turned the carcass into local Fish & Wildlife. I was then notified by the feds. After six months and a court appearance (which I was never notified of until one hour beforehand), the fine was reduced to $250 and some note on my federal record. During all this, according to the state trapping regulations, I was going past my duty by turning in the eagle. I think that something should be changed in the regulation books or the feds should stay out of matters such as this one. Catching bald eagles in the tide pool sets is misfortunate, however common in Southeast Alaska, and I'll be damned if I will ever do what I thought was the right thing again.

- When the Forest Service rebuilt the trail at Fish Creek, they destroyed an active beaver den. This is wrong and needs to be addressed in future trail sites.
- Fur market down – not worth trapping.
- I think a five-wolf limit should be implemented for each trapper in Unit 2. Last year I waited until marten season ended to begin taking my six-year-old wolf hunting and trapping. However, there was an emergency closure Feb. 15. I understand this was primarily due to the efforts of just two trappers. If trappers cannot self-regulate or cannot follow a conservation ethic, then the state will be forced to regulate the trapper.
- I used to need what income I could get from trapping. I am now 77 years old and don't need the income, so I don't even want to trap.
- What happened to the SE marten research project?
- Furbearers seem to be abundant throughout Tenakee Inlet. Several easy winters have been good for deer and marten. Mink and other is not a major target on my trap line, although I set a few sets with them in mind. All three furbearers seem to be abundant.
- There are beavers in just about every drainage around Sitka any more. I would like to catch one. How about a one beaver a year season?
- I have been too busy in school, trying to come out on top so I haven't had time, but would like to begin again after I graduate.
- Went in a new area and all I did was snare wolves but got more dogs. "Quote" learn to snare wolves.
- I moved this year, plus being away from home for work for most of the trapping season did not allow me to trap this past season. My activities for trapping this past season were limited to working with another trapper in my old game management unit, and scouting my new game management unit for possible trapping this coming season.
- Have a nice day!

Southcentral/Southwest

- Too many snow machiners going everywhere and not getting permission – more accidents. Dog team trail runs only. Trap line now like a main highway.
- Why can we trap beaver early but not muskrats? Have heavy winter freeze off doe to dropping water levels over winter. Would like to trap muskrats before we have three feet of ice and snow.
- Wolves are finishing off the moose that the bears aren't eating.
- Price of fur makes it uneconomical to trap, better to leave the fur in the field and let my line build up its population. Plan to inventory my lines in the next season if prices remain low.
- I believe more should be done to increase the bison on the Copper and Chitin herds. Should be more concern over the wolf and coyote lice problem. And less "hands on" studies by Fish & Game, etc. I believe that some tagging, relocation, etc studies are more harmful to the populations than good!
- Regarding lice, why not develop a free inoculation program for all dogs in South Central Alaska. We could probably get a grant to finance this from the Fish & Wildlife Foundation or PETA. I am ready to support some zoning of recreational snow machiners to keep them out of moose wintering areas, trap lines, etc.
- It is kind of depressing how many people (snow machiners) from Mat-Su and Anchorage drive all over the country now a days. It never used to be like this. Just the past five years. A lot has to do with explosion of the snow machine industry for recreation and the popularity of Eureka as a snow machine sort of resort.
- I appreciate you taking the time to send out this survey – it's encouraging to see you making a strong effort to communicate with local trappers in order to better manage our wildlife – I wish I had more information/experience to share with you. Hopefully those who trap a larger area and who are more experienced will share their findings with you. I would very much like to see the general public educated on wildlife management. And even more natural resources on the basis of scientific fact, objective habitat/population assessments and predator to prey ratios and research. Thanks.
- Lynx seemed to have made it through the winter okay, as every lynx I caught had plenty of body fat, including kittens. A few areas where I trap still hold good rabbit populations. I ran a number of my

trails in mid-April to check on furbearer numbers and found numbers to be very good, especially lynx. Marten numbers are good in areas of no rabbits (owls). I expect them to increase in other areas after the owls die out, as has happened in the past.

- Change the word leghold to foothold. Stop collaring wolves.
- Eliminate weekend warrior snow machining; study lice in wolves; there are a lot of wolves in 13 perhaps killing moose; I have noticed caribou being moved out of Eureka area probably due to the thousands of Wasilla/Palmer snow machiners; excellent beaver regulations.
- Fox population in Unit 13B is the lowest I've ever seen in over 30 years trapping here. I believe snow mobile hunters are to blame. I personally encountered two groups of three snow mobilers in late March who were "fox hunting" or so they said. They just shrugged when I commented that fox season might be closed and that they should check their regs. These were not isolated incidents, I have commonly found dead fox with their tails cut off. No enforcement in our area, it's just too large and enforcement is flying, not on the ground.
- I only trap for recreation. I am retired and run the line every three days starting right at my house. As I have a trapping partner, there are two of us running this line.
- We feel that the future of trapping and hunting is deteriorating rapidly. Simply too many people, not enough game while the cost to many and traditional users are beaten out by urban thrill seekers and sport trappers and hunters. We have laws that contradict each other. Example: on page 16 of the 2000-2001 regs, methods and means bait for trapping reads "you many use the following as bait for trapping – the hide, viscela, head or bones of a legally taken animal." Page 22 definitions: "Bait means any material that is placed to attract an animal's sense of smell or taste. Bait does not include those parts of a legally taken animal that are not required to be salvaged as edible meat if the part are not removed from the kill site. What does this mean? I am very concerned about the present situation of wolf management in Unit 13 & 20. Those are the units I live in. Let me give you a brief history. I came here in 1970 a disabled wartime vet Vietnam era. Served my country to protect certain rights and freedoms. I've live in the bush all those years, made my living as a hunting guide, trapper and fisherman. I have three sons raised in the bush. The changes make my head swim! I am a white man living like an Indian did. I've seen laws made to suite outside interest groups, Friends of Animals people. I consider myself a true friend of animals, knowing and being able to comprehend the Big Picture. Respecting the habits and habitat of our furry brothers. They have given me my livelihood for 31 years. With last winter '99-'00 record snowfall, the moose and sheep in 13E are in serious trouble. Here's my simple explanation: Too many urban four-wheelers, too many wolves, too many people claiming to be subsistence users. Predators up, prey are down. Answer to problem: restrict four-wheelers and unnecessary leasure snow machiners, cull half the wolf packs, determine who is subsistence hunter, trapper. As far as the young hunter, we have teachers in our public schools who teach the politics of Friends of Animals. I saw this here in Cantwell with my children. Also kids are motivated by return for the efforts. I invested $6,000 in new snow-go, $2,000 gas & oil & living expenses, license, etc, traveled over 3,000 miles. Price of fur is extremely low, $20/marten, $200/wolves, can't give foxes away. It seems the kids are smarter than me! Who wants to work seven days a week for five months at 50 cents a day in the dark and extreme weather? The laws are being made by urban users. I call it the Moron Majority Rule. I think you can sense my frustration. I saw our local advisory board come up with proposals only to be shot down by the three-headed monster in March.
- The fox in my area almost disappeared. The only two I caught seemed to be exceptionally thin-skinned.
- Thought the lynx seemed abundant, they were found in pockets where a few rabbits could be found. Other areas that had fair lynx numbers last year were void of them this year. Fox populations seemed low this season. Very few pups were taken. The overall prey base also seemed to be down. Keep up the good work.
- We have a lot more wolf all over unit 13 and unit 11 and we don't have the moose number we had in the past.
- I would like to see some kind of mandatory time limit that a trapper has to check his traps. With all the bad publicity that trapping has, we need to check traps more often then just once a week. I have seen animals that have been left in traps by the urban "weekend trapper" and sometimes they don't come back for two weeks.
- For all my effort in making a good wolf set, two full days scouting, making a trail that has to set up, then to have some yahoos run through, think about it. Preseason prep to trap twelve weeks of good trapping, two weeks ruined by recreationalist, wolf hunters, whoever. I'd like to see how they

would react when their fancy snow machine gets impounded for doing this.

- For several years I got on the list to receive road-killed moose for wolf bait, I have yet to get a call. Is there a list or what is the deal? I saw a moose rot this winter along the road. I even hit a moose this year and did the right thing. I think ADF&G does a fine job, however I do not believe dogs are giving the wolves lice. It was a nice trapping season though. Thanks.
- I still think the deer season should close December 15. Too many boat hunters during Christmas vacation. Some of the smaller islands on PWS are shot up badly during this time of year.
- Did not trap this year, 2001. The river didn't freeze and no snow. Maybe next year.
- Hopefully it'll be more normal for trapping next winter, and I can fill more info out for you.
- Glad that my proposal for a resident brown bear hunt on Montague Island has gone through – good job! I wish we had red squirrels here on Evans Island. I used to do a lot of marten trapping on the mainland, but out here on the islands no red squirrels = no marten. Very few small game as prey for predator species. Any chance of red squirrel reintroduction? Many elders recall red squirrels from the past, but why none today? Deer population had mild winter – two previous winters took big toll on abundance. I am the Sitka blacktail deer biologist of this region (B.S. wildlife management from Purdue University), have a good handle on the fluctuations in population if you ever want a reference on someone in the area who has firsthand observations. Please pass this information on from your furbearer department to the new area biologist.
- Anchorage weekend warrior trappers attend meetings, raise funds, man booths at shows and deal with anti's almost daily. Our benefits outweigh our faults, rural residents.
- Keep trapping alive!
- You guys are doing a great job managing the disappearance of the moose heard in 16B. Have you ever noticed that there are a lot of regulations on the books protecting brown bears in 16B? You do realize 16B has totally protected bear breeding areas called Denali National Park to the south. So I'm thinking it's time to increase moose herd to minimum of 6,000 animals by a little private sector intensive predator control. Please cut me loose and I'll save some cute little moose babies for the bunny huggers.
- I think the effort is diminishing due to lack of fur prices. I trap for fun and will always trap. I am concerned about what happened in Washington state closing trapping and we shouldn't let that happen here. Wolves in 13B are increasing at an alarming rate. In the Chistochin there is a pack of 18 at least. There are actually lots of fox in 13B also. The rabbit population seems to be good.
- I buy a trapping license each year, but I only travel with my son who traps actively. I observe and make suggestions. I enjoy this type of activity. But do not trap. In 2002 I may try trapping wolves. Thank you.
- Since hunting, trapping and fishing are vital conservation tools used by ADF&G (free of charge to dept. and monies made on licenses), I feel ADF&G should become more proactive to insure these tools remain in place.
- Seems to be a lot more beaver around, although there seems to be fewer fox.
- I could have but did not concentrate on beaver. Last year I caught 40 beaver. I may concentrate on beaver again with an even earlier opening.
- I don't trap a large area but when I get a driver's license I will increase the area that I trap.
- Not one moose left on my line due to wolves. Have always had bear but moose didn't disappear until wolves exploded.
- I think it's great that the Department of Fish & Game is encouraging young people to trap. Especially in a time when other states are banning traps. I hope to be able to trap again this fall and winter. I have a daughter who is going to school in Wisconsin. She is taking Police Science in hopes of one day being a park ranger or game warden.
- During hunting season, hunters took six wolves, none had lice.
- Animals caught in the same areas with the same types of sets, i.e. beaver and otter, mink and marten, should have their seasons begin and end together.
- Our area hardly had any snow and the ice too thin.
- I use a ski-equipped airplane to run my trapline. The past winter didn't provide enough snow or freezing weather to use the plane.
- I will start trapping when the fur prices are better. You can't make money anymore. Gas and traps are too high. It is getting like fishing low prices.
- I didn't answer all of the questions because I never trap since 1995 or so. Hardly anyone trap anymore because of the prices are low.
- No snow, too warm.

- Just make sure they have their license with them, I know some people like myself, because of no job to get the license, and they cost so much.
- I observed more beaver trapping effort closer to Dillingham this year due to some trappers unable to cross Wood River (never froze).
- Took only one beaver for harvest this year. Took it to consume, not to sell!
- It is very hard to find anyone who will go trapping nowadays.
- There are too many wolves. They are killing the caribou and moose. If you did something to have more killed it would be better for us all.
- Age 95 – might be last year trapping. It's a possibility. Need someone to skin beaver. I don't like to skin beaver.
- Why didn't you mention moose as a prey species? We have too many wolves since we can't use an airplane to hunt wolves. Very little moose calf recruitment.
- We have same problem every year. That fur buyer buying too low price. That is why most of our people decide not to trap. Some of us used for subsistence. Thank you.
- A lot of abundance of beaver and did not try for other furbearers because of mild season. Hopefully next season will be better.
- Lackluster fur prices had me not too excited about trapping, but it's in my blood. My whole family likes to go with. It's a good lifestyle I'll always enjoy, no matter what the price of fur is. We tan and sell the taxidermy-quality furs to the tourists and keep the rest for family garments. Nice to be self-sufficient and have nice warm clothes! Till next year.
- Good year for the furbearers. Hopefully we'll get a good spring and summer season and be able to look forward to a real good harvest in 01-02. Due to the mild winter, martens and beaver were able to stay out all winter and came into spring very healthy and plentiful. I just got a fur check today from Canada. Red fox $42 (U.S.) flat average and I had the top (best) 50% of them tanned. So that's 40 bucks a piece for the bottom half of our 2001 red fox. First time a fox has been worth more than a marten on the raw fur market in a long time. With good conditions, next season should be a good one!
- Fox and wolf numbers went down after mid season. Seems like they just kinda disappeared, maybe sick? The condition of the fur was down a little on them also. The wolf I caught in January should have been excellent, but was fair at best. Had an injury to back leg that may account for dislocated hip – hit on road? He was nice and fat though. Lots of new beaver houses.
- I noticed a population jump on wolves so I will be spending more time after them next season. I also noted more lynx in the area but they were just passing through. I never saw tracks in the same area.
- If you pull any weight with the man upstairs, we sure would like to see a real winter next year!
- Trapping beaver in late September and early to mid October is a waste of a valuable resource. Beaver pelts are barely starting to prime by October 20. Most trappers would take a few late October or early November beaver more for a marten bait than hide value. What we do need is to return marten season to October 20 before the very high population of the present crashes and open wolf trapping October 20. The wolf population is growing at a rapid rate.
- Since your hands are tied by politics, liberalization of means and methods for wolf must be a priority. Allow the public to help you bring moose/wolf ratios under control. Liberalize to the point that we can get an edge. Research and history shows that wolves will not go away if we shut down wolf progress. Restrictions may be needed on fox in some areas. Coyotes are really putting a dent in fox numbers in the Knik River, Sutton, through the lower Matanuska. Thanks for being on the side of hunters and trappers.
- Due to the bad winter, trapping was all but impossible. The mild weather allowed more people to drive the beach greatly increasing the traffic around my sets. I had one wolverine stolen from me and sets were fouled several times by people. I hope next winter will be better. And I would like to see some way of stopping these people who can't help themselves from messing with sets. I think jail time would be a good idea.
- Manage the resource by biology, not public opinion!
- I have seen more and more wolves in the area and less moose over the past couple seasons. Something should be done to stop or at least slow the drop in the moose population. I think this is a worthwhile survey. It asks the right questions from the people who are able to observe wildlife trends firsthand. I especially think the section on species abundance will be extremely helpful in managing our wildlife.
- Warm weather made for great mink and otter trapping and terrible fox trapping.

- I trapped the upper Willow Creek and game is scarce. With all the snow machine activity it is pretty dead as far as game is. Seen the tracks of one wolverine and one lynx, no wolves.
- Lack of snow in my area made it tough to get around this year.
- Open marten season longer in Unite 16A till Jan. 31 like 16B. There are more marten in 16A and our catch is three times as much, plus less the time. No reason for it to close earlier! Please take this in consideration. Most trappers are in 16B and we have endless land and marten in 16A, but I can only trap them in December. (Not long enough!)
- You should make the land otter season longer in GMU 8!!!!
- Put more effort into beaver trapping, which accounted for higher harvest numbers. Bears were a huge problem this year.
- You need to open lynx season Nov. 10 next year like you did this past season so we can try to clean them up before they starve off. Open wolverine season in Unit 13C to Valdez trappers. A very good number of wolverine in 13C. Thanks for the questionnaire.
- Lynx seem to be at an all-time high up near Copper Center area – very visible near highway area, related to decrease in rabbit population.
- Fur prices too low to warrant the effort and too busy doing other work. Haven't seen as many coyotes around Hartney Bay as in past years.
- Sure would like to see the department clean up the louse infestation on the peninsula instead of spending money on neutering wolves up north, etc. I hope we can have another lynx season on the Kenai, and I appreciate the ADF&G for their stance on trapping issues, most of the time. Thanks for a job well done.
- I live on the south side of Kachemak Bay. Cold weather and snow dictates whether I trap or do other things. Also due to a boat project this winter, I started later than usual. Also I have seen healthy coyotes on the beaches, but the last three I have caught have been lousey. The healthy ones seem to be on the north side of Tutka for some reason.
- Thanks for your interest and support for trapping. This is the most misunderstood and under-supported sport we have. Yet it teaches me more about nature and animals then anything else. I have only trapped recreationally, but would love to spend more time at it.
- With all the coyotes and fox on Ft. Richardson, why not have a short one-month shotgun only predator season? Ft. Richardson did allow trapping years back, so they're not against taking of some fur. Hunting is already allowed, so use same policies of check-in/out and certain type of weapon and season length.
- There are lots of marten in Unit 16A. It would be real nice to have marten season extended to January 15 to end with lynx season.
- Due to poor weather, trapping has been close to impossible.
- Please advise the population that trappers trapping in legal areas are not the culprits in pet catches. The irresponsible pet owners who are breaking the leash law are. "Zero tolerance" of pets harassing wildlife?
- I live at Mile 10 on the Talkeetna Spur Road. Have trapped on Fish Lake in the hills behind it for a number of years. Not a big trapline anymore, but I still enjoy catching a few beaver every year. Usually do not sell the hides as we use them ourselves. Did not trap this year, but hope to this coming fall. Will take a boy with me.
- Since Unit 14 has grown so much recently and because I lost easy access to the stream I most recently trapped, I have concentrated my efforts in the past few years to calling coyotes for fox - with little success. The critters are out there. I just need to learn exactly where and how best to call.
- Due to illness I didn't get to set my regular amount of traps – worst trapping season of my life – but better than any day of work.
- Because of a good population of beaver in Unit 7, it would be a good idea to open beaver season around the 1st of November rather than the 10th.
- A trapping workshop for all folks with a license, to eliminate nincompoops, or educate them similar to your bow hunting deal.
- One of our local kids were trapping on the outskirts of town and caught some lady's dog. This dog runs wild – we have a leash law – but still the state troopers paid this young kid a visit and put the scare to him so he is no longer trapping. We need to get the younger generation away from the TV and Nintendo and out in the countryside.
- I started trapping at age 10 in the year 1934, and I've trapped nearly every year since except for three years during WWII when I was in the armed services. Fur bearing animals seem to be more abundant today then when I first started trapping. Of course there also seems to be fewer trappers

a field. I live in a small native fishing village (population approx. 200 people.) Not one native, young or old traps or has any interest in trapping, only one old "white" guy, myself.

Interior

- Rain, rain in October, November, December & January. Snow in February & March. Rivers frozen late were dangerous all winter. A lot of overflow after February 1st, and deep, fluffy snow. Holitna snows deeper than normal. Normal amount of spruce grouse. All caribou have moved out of 19A & B, went west. Herd grew too large and ate themselves out of house and home. Lichen dried up and was tramped to pieces. Few caribou east of Lime village. The last of caribou crossed Holitna in latter part of August going west. Moose counts very, very low. No calf survivals. Three large packs of wolves. I would estimate the moose count down by 75% in 19A & B. Hard crust in the last two years doing the most damage to moose. Also rain and turning into ice on willows makes the moose very skinny or learn too much ice into the stomach is bad. Knowledge from old timers that used to hunt year round. All muskrats, ermine, mink have disappeared from unit 19 A&B. Martens starving because of rain (drown mice) and then froze and later deep fluffy snow. Lots of woodpeckers. Beaver dams are killing 100-200/year white spruce, including movement of white fish. Good for ducks. Black bears below normal. Grizzlies on increase, but nocturnal because super cub harassment. Bad hunting and sighting for hares, song birds, rafters because of heavy growth of birch, aspen, willows in most places. Sunlight never penetrates to the ground. Area needs burn bad in controlled method. Moose population peeked 30 years ago. Late breakups (middle May to end of May) kept the growth of trees down or small and this is best feed for moose. Trees do all the growing in the first part of June. Late breakups kept snow or high waters (also floods) underwater and keeping of ground cool or cold prevents rapid growth. So out of luck on moose. My pictures of landscapes of this area shows the difference of growth in the last fifty years and pictures of moose like in bunches of fifty or more in one place. BLM land openings to squatters across Holitna River basin five mile wide caused immense population decline on moose numbers. As this opening was right in the middle of the best moose population and calving grounds. One Anglo-American settles and all the friends and relatives come. All wants to be noted as guide to big moose and to brag so more can come. After destruction none is left. Like Churchill – how could so few do so much destruction and damage. Very little of this meat or animals were consumed by hunters. This stretch of land should be closed forever to hunting and used to breed moose for the surrounding areas. But management is dollars, and one cannot give up a cent or one will go broke. Like cows on a farm, subsidy (welfare) is needed to be profitable.
- I'm disappointed that ADF&G didn't take a bigger stand against the power line across 20A. This should have happened in the early stages, three-four years ago. Also, there is no reason to seal beaver now that there is no demand. Otherwise, keep up the good work. Glad to have trapping supporters in the agency!
- Lots of lynx rabbits starting to crash.
- Wolf numbers stabilized.
- I'm glad to see you continuing the trapper questionnaire program. As time goes on, we'll have to recruit more & more trappers just to keep trapping viable.
- Too many wolves. Be lucky to see a moose in a few years. Should put bounty on wolves.
- The line I trapped this year is about 50% in 20C and 50% in 19D. My line burned last summer. There was very few marten tracks so I didn't trap it. It is all in 19D.
- I plan to return to my line hopefully next year or the year after. As for age class of trappers, my 10-year-old son is pretty gung-ho on the idea. I spent a couple of my younger years (11 & 12) trapping at Farewell Lake with my family. When I finished school I spent eight years trapping and returned in 1996 again. Trapping is important for several reasons. Income in remote Alaska is pretty low and even with depressed fur prices, trapping can add a lot percent wise. Trapping adds a purpose to wintertime in remote Alaska. I can't imagine spending a remote winter and not trapping. Finally, trapping is an important link to historical Alaska. If we lose our access to trapping, through either ballot measure or through increased recreational pressure, then Alaska will lose an important part of itself.
- Don't even try to sterilize wolves in 20A. The trappers can keep the wolf population down in this game unit.

- Help me this year – close the caribou season in the White mountains. There are low caribou counts and they open an unlimited season. Why?
- I didn't trap this winter because I lost my cabin and sno-go in a forest fire. BLM had two days to protect the place, but opted to do nothing. This is a BLM policy for permitted and unpermitted cabins. A big thanks to all involved.
- Lynx picked up this year. I am in poor lynx habitat, but saw a lot more than usual. They kept eating marten out of my sets. Caught several in pole sets. Also, fox crashed!! I usually have quite a few, but this year there were almost none! Very few tracks and both I caught were so diseased and nasty looking, I didn't even want to touch them. Patches of bare skin all scabbed up, very skinny, missing hair, and patches of skin with only short fuzz growing on it, really nasty looking.
- Due to the price of raw fur, I only trapped for marten. The only reason I trapped at all is because I enjoy trapping. I would trap some even if there were no market. I only trapped the month of November 2000. Only wanted enough marten for a couple of hats but got 40, so I sold 30 pelts. The trapping effort in this area isn't having any effect on the abundance of game.
- Appreciate the unlimited bag limit on beaver in the Manley area - sure wish you'd drop the tagging requirement on lynx and beaver.
- Almost no grouse of any kind.
- Trail use conflicts are increasing all around Fairbanks. I appreciate WCD taking an active part in helping to resolve them.
- You better start killing some wolves before it's too late for the moose populations. How about restricting the non-resident wanton wasters?
- Land and shoot for wolves is a necessity.
- I think you are doing a good job. Let's hope the fur market does the same.
- You're doing a fine job and have a good, hard-working staff. Continue with this project.
- This was my first year trapping with my dad. We had fun.
- I just like trapping. It's a way of life.
- Tough winter this year. Didn't clean traps well enough for warm weather trapping.
- Open the Dalton Highway corridor to snow machine trapping.
- A comment for Steve Peterson: It appears to me that the state will not continue to support the use of leg hold traps if and when an acceptable alternative comes on the market. The change-over from leg holds to some types of traps that are considered more humane will be very costly to the trappers. I strongly urge that the state start to make some real and serious plans for a trap exchange program, for the day when we can no longer use leg holds for some species. I suspect there are other departments better suited than ADF&G to administer such an exchange program, but none of them (or the governor or the legislature) has the slightest clue that this is eventually going to happen (required use of killer traps), even though Steve is part of the process working toward that goal. Let's doe some parallel preparation.
- Rabbit population crashed to near zero. Grouse & ptarmigan were extremely low. Coyote, fox and lynx dropping. Called in harassment by a leased chopper. No proof, so no results, only my direct witnessing of incidents. The helicopters are flying at less than 200' and directly above to main trapline trail and cabins and frequently – sometimes 4 or 5 days a week. The wolf packs in my area have had some bad experiences with sterilization and radio collaring and are understandably shy of choppers. This has resulted in a lot less overall use of my trails by the larger predators. I do not like being a tourist attraction or the resulting loss of fur.
- Prices were too low to justify the time away from home.
- Would like to see 20D & 20B beaver season extended to May 10 – or season read – Nov 1 – May 10. Stop collaring wolves.
- Something needs to be done about "crazy trappers" who think they own the whole state. I've had death threats, property destroyed, flat tires. I do respect established traplines, but there has to be some lines drawn.
- I agree that less young people are now trapping in rural Alaska. I am interested in doing some beaver trapping next year. I've wanted to do that for years, but have not had time due to my unpredictable work schedule. If I do trap, I will involve my son. Thank you for your interest.
- Hares declined dramatically from Wiseman south. To the north hares declined to 66% of last year's peak. There were four "pulses" of lynx moving from the south into the Brooks Range during this trapping season. Once they get to the relatively high hare population, they stay in the hare strata of the south slope. The fox population was very high in the fall, but they disappeared rapidly among the dense lynx population. Wolf numbers were down markedly over last year's high. The upper

drainages were especially low in wolf numbers. Wolf numbers were low in the upper drainages of the south slope Brooks Range last season and high in the lower drainages. The decline has extended this season. It is my opinion fox on the North Slope vectored a disease into the wolf population. I have seen this in the mid 80's. The current wolf population on my trapline is slightly below what I would consider normal for the amount of ungulates. I have noticed very few voles this winter, which may affect the marten population. The red squirrel population is currently exploding on the abundant white spruce cone crop of last summer. I take my kids out trapping as other parents do in this village. I am glad to be of assistance in your population assessments.

- Keep up the good work in helping us keep our trapping rights; the use of leg irons is just as important as the snare and conibear, for there are conditions where the use of each type of method is useful when the other one doesn't work. This way a trapper can help manage each species on his line.
- Too many wolves killing off our moose population. Forever grizzly bears in our unit come out of winter den – they hunt for moose. I saw it at left fork Nulato River and a mile below Nulato and one above Last Chance. Black bears and grizzly bears all hunt moose calves during spring months after they are born.
- I did not trap marten this year. I usually do with leg hold traps. I will next year.
- My trapping efforts are directly related to fur prices. Until the price received for furs goes up, I will not trap very much. The only species I've trapped the last couple of years is wolf and wolverine.
- We need aerial wolf hunting.
- I would like them to make more science camps so kids can learn more about wildlife!
- Overall furbearer numbers are up – high number of lynx in Galena area, high wolf numbers in all of 21D. More ptarmigan than I have ever seen in interior Alaska. Fur quality very good, even though we had a very warm winter. Trappers need to learn to work together; trapline conflicts hurt all of us.
- Sorry I couldn't help you more. Keep up the good work.
- G&F constantly comprises to the save all and leave all animals alone to the point G&F can't function. Have a good season.
- Set up a public awareness for trapping and it's important to population and economy. Set up a program to go into schools and talk about trapping techniques and it's heritage and Alaskans and show skins and products made by fur sewers and their usefulness.
- Efforts to control predators by trapping are not working.
- In Units 24, 25 & 26B within the Dalton Highway outreaching maybe 30 miles east & west the wolf population has drastically dropped in three years. I had only two packs on my line, one of five, another of two, no pups. I did put sets out but didn't really want to catch any because of the low numbers and no pups. There has been an influx of people this year (mostly pilot truck drivers and transits along the road using snow machines to run down wolves, wolverines, musk ox – this needs immediate attention if Alaska is concerned about its resources. This area cannot sustain a constant barrage of hunters/guides and non-fair chase ethics. The Ivishak area was overrun with sheep hunters, wolf hunters and it appeared there had been a musk ox shot about halfway up the Ivishak by a snow machine – there was a two machine-wide trail leaving the Happy Valley area to the east – not a trapper. ADF&G must realize this and realize what will happen if this continues. If they do not, we all will pay for it.
- Warm winter and open river channels kept me from trapping.
- The trapping life is about over with.
- I was very disappointed in the winter caribou season here in 20E. The first time in 27 years that I ever had traps stolen from me or sets tampered with!
- We like to see ADFG advisories submitted to locals like the one "concerning bear predation on moose in the Yukon Flats."

Arctic/Western

- Enjoy the report – keep up the good work.
- Yeah, beavers are a pain in the you know what. They clog up streams and creeks making our

rivers very shallow. In one case a beaver dammed up the whole river (Tagoomenik). That causes a bunch of problems for our returning salmon and because I am also a commercial fisherman, the concerns are great. Other furbearers continue to thrive and so I say, good job!

- Thanks for questionnaire. May there be many more to come. God bless.
- Well, I am glad to help out with the questionnaire as best of my knowledge and happy that you want more youngsters to be encouraged to start trapping.
- Back in 1957 to 1962 I trap marten, mink, otter, muskrat, lynx, any animals the stores could pay a dollar on. It sure was good years to remember of. Now who going to pay for the fur we get??? There no more buyer like good old days. Since I retired I sure like to go back to trapping those call beautiful animals. That's my beautiful dream after I retire from working rest of my lifetime.
- Fewer wolves in the upper Noatak than 6-8 years ago, but more wolverine possibly (perhaps same). More wolves by far in lower and mid Noatak than last 2-3 years. Red and white foxes very high; otters high but fewer than last few years. Lynx very high in Selawik, up in Kobuk & fairly common. Beavers expanding range north and west.
- Comments to Fish & Game? As a matter of fact, I do. We had young wolves running through the village again this fall. I made sets for the pair, but had another guy following me around making sloppy sets close to mine, spooking them. They were later run down and shot at St. Mary's and no more came around. The moose population is really building, so I'm sure we will have a permanent pack of wolves here someday. I believe the moose are actually moving in and increasing the population more than they are just calving. The winter moose hunt is really hard on them as cows and calves are commonly shot and once the season opens, it never quite closes again. But considering all the hunting pressure, there are more and more moose every year. I only saw one set of wolverine tracks and I made a set for it. But some local boys ran it down and shot it before it made it back around. I trapped mainly fox - in 30 days I caught 48, all in snares, hardly even had to try, there were so many, and surprisingly there was no mange at all. I averaged $23 a piece. The lynx population is coming up and just 20 miles upriver, there are quite a few more than here. But they should be here in strong numbers next year. Our marten are off-colored yellow and orange, every color but dark. I trapped only enough for a hat. Just when I thought there could be no more room for beaver houses, they put them up where I didn't even know there was water. We have an unholy amount of beaver, so something's going to happen. There's just too many, but at today's prices, I am not going to skin them. Well, if we are going to vote on all our wildlife issues, the only way to make it fair is to go to an Electoral College type voting system to keep the big cities from dictating policy to the smaller rural villages. But who knows, that probably won't even work because we have bunny-hugging being taught in our village schools by the Lower 48 teachers we bring in to brainwash our children. I think the only thing that could save us is a constitutional amendment guaranteeing our right to hunt, fish and trap and we need to do it for our future generations, otherwise we will lose it piece by piece until it's all gone...well, you asked.
- I didn't get out much this year due mostly to being involved with my job. When I was out, I noticed good arctic fox sign and below average wolf and wolverine sign around the village. Sorry I can't be of more help, but I appreciate your efforts to help trappers.
- Might it be possible to have the beginning of the hunting and trapping license buying time in July rather than Jan? Having to buy a new license in January causes some of us to go "illegal" for a short period of time. Some don't even purchase a new license until Aug/Sept, leaving the entire spring (Jan-May) illegal. A matter of convenience for us trappers and hunters.
- Season limit on lynx in GMU 23 needs to be liberalized. Numbers are going to explode next year.
- Lynx, rabbit population seems to have increase in last two years.
- Would like info available on new traps, home tanning equipment and fur prices and buyers. That stuff used to come in the mail when I was a trapper. A lot of the women here have switched over to ordering commercial tanned skins. I found it time consuming to hand tan, too expensive to send out. I'd trap again if I could tan my skins cheaply.
- We are seeing the proliferation of lynx in the lower Koybuk and the ridiculous limit of three per season needs to be changed immediately. It isn't possible to keep them out of wolverine sets without adversely affecting the catch of wolverine. I don't believe there was any biological reason for the limited catch and season. Lynx run in cycles following the rabbit cycle. We are now in the upswing of both species cycle.
- The Kotzebue area needs to open up the lynx season and bag limit. The rabbit population is close to a high and the lynx population is showing up in the Selawik and Noorviik areas.
- I wish there was a tannery at Bethel so we wouldn't send them to Cordova.

- I only trapped beaver for a few days in early June 2000.
- I usually hunt the three main furbearers with rifle, only except the foxes with traps.
- Did not trap due to fur price down.
- All of my furs are tanned in Idaho and sewn into fur products by my wife. I you have a market for your goods, the money is in value added furs.
- Due to unseasonably poor conditions, no early snow and rain, I found traveling too dangerous with my children in February. I pulled up traps after two weeks. A very poor year due to weather. Lynx numbers were still high – my target species.
- Trapper education classes would be valuable here. We have a lot of wolves here and many guys don't know much about trapping them. Also, trapping ethics needs to be addressed. First time in 15 years I've had fur stolen. My son had two animals stolen as well. Conditions here the worst I've ever seen for snow machine travel. I had my regular mountain trapline operating for only one month of grueling travel. Thankfully, the critters were abundant, so trapping close by was productive. Otherwise I wouldn't have made any money. Thank you for your interest.
- I did not trap this season (2000-01) due to a stroke – will resume after recovery.
- During my trapping season in 1991, the marten was the main fur animal I was going for because of the high price for any easy trapping animal and small. Right now it's a little low. Although during my snow machine riding I see tracks here and there that tells me they are still around. I am located in GMU 18. There is abundance of rabbits all over the country, must be a cycle trend, I think which made the lynx populate around this area a lot more. Snow machine rides is what I do now, couple times a week or a day.
- On population trend of furbearers, I marked x on animals that I mostly trap. I don't know much about others if they're abundant or not. I wish some or all fur buyers raise prices on beavers because here on GMU 18 there's more beaver houses and dams covering up sloughs and rivers. We can't go to the certain places that we want to go and fish.
- With warm weather and being "Mr. Mom," I never had more than 25 sets out at one time. I trapped within two miles of Alakanak and did very well for the small amount I was able to do. Beaver, red fox and muskrat were very abundant this year. My total catch was 20 red fox, 12 beaver, 24 muskrat and two weasel.
- I didn't do any trapping for a long time, but ptarmigan and rabbit leave lots of tracks on the fresh snow. Lynx now and then. Lots of wolves and foxes. Caribou make tracks at Clifford Point and Rex Point. I guessed they're trying to make shortcuts going north - you should put a detour sign or dead end notice for them!
- Need to continue to have a village-based harvest survey. This would give ADF&G a little more accurate count of wildlife species in a certain unit or region. By going to the communities and explaining present regulations would give residents a better understanding of the regulations and personnel that are working for this region.
- I may not fit your definition of a trapper – I am a fur hunter. Due to changes in my family, I spend more time in the truck on the Nome road system looking for furbearers rather than off road on ATV's and snow machine like I used to. I never set traps. Just spot, stalk and shoot. I do this for recreation. I have never sold a fur in my life. I would not even know how to go about it.
- I just took my daughter out to have a little fun on the weekends. We got one lynx and only had three sets.
- I have seen more rabbit this year and an increase in wolverine and wolf track. Red fox seems to be a little less, and the number of ptarmigan seems less than last year. I did not make the same amount of effort this year as I have in past years due to other demands on my time. I trap mainly for getting out and personal use, the fur market has little impact on me. Also, I noticed fewer fox sign early in the season which led me to reduce my effort on fox. I had a good year the year before, taking about 20 reds - that may have been too much.
- Traveled a lot, not really hunting, just exploring.
- As an adult, I have not had any sets put up. All game that I have caught were taken with a rifle. In 22B we are noticing an increase in predators. We imagine it has to do with the increase in caribou population. The rabbit and lynx are also beginning to show up again. The last time I noticed a rabbit and lynx population was when I was 6 or 7 and my father did trapping. Wolves are also inclining in the area. This year we have run across numerous tracks, and I have run across four, but I never had a chance to let a shot off.
- Did not trap from 1985-2001, but lot of lynx are coming back.
- Fox were common; weather was mild early in winter 2000. I did not trap in winter 2001, but shot

two fox near town. Locally fox will bring $50-$75/pelt, but very few people trap. Tourists will buy them readily at $50. If local jobs become scarce, then perhaps more folks will trap. Rabies in 2001 common. Lots of immatures in the area.

- It seems this year the prey populations have been strong and the predators have also done well. I hope wildlife managers continue to use trapping as an effective furbearer management tool. To maintain any public support, humane, ethical treatment of wildlife must be used, or any bad publicity will have a negative effect on trapping.
- Did not trap in 2000-2001 because of added responsibilities at work, not enough time.
- Predator numbers seem to be increasing. The conditions were so poor here in Unalakleet that catches don't reflect the amount of game.
- Would like to increase trapping opportunity for beaver in GMU 22C.
- Unalakleet furbearers are in good shape. Prey species are high, so predators are up also. Seems to be more trappers in Unalakleet than other Norton Sound Villages. Trapping is definitely an under used source of income in rural Alaska. Seasons should remain long to maximize opportunity.
- It was my first year trapping in Barrow. There were many fox available and I made 4-5 sets with only three days of trapping.
- Too many red foxes, some rabid, (act like). Three rabid foxes in town last year. Some bird populations dropping due to arctic and red fox getting the eggs/young. How about a bounty to control fox population. I, like others, don't want to skin a fox for fear of rabies. Arctic fox come off the sea ice to summer along the coast. Government is trying to set aside land for the eider because of habitat loss from human/hunting use and development.
- Nicephore is 13 years old and has been introduced to hunting and trapping since he was 10 years old. The year 2000-2001 trapping season has been very successful for him and he was very active in taking care of his trapline.
- Prices of fur too low to trap.
- I was out of the state for two months and due to that and the poor snow conditions, I didn't bother to trap this year. I intend to trap next year.
- Set out traps in February and March. I never caught anything that was the time of lots of snow and good, deep snow to travel.
- This was a different version questionnaire than I received from ADF&G McGrath. I'll include a little extra info. I have been trapping for 18 years, all in Alaska areas including South Central, Interior, Southwestern and Northwestern Alaska. I did not trap this season due to a household move. I am glad to see ADF&G continuing this questionnaire.
- In the past years I've just basically hunted. Don't really trap anymore due to low fur prices and just a lack of certain furbearer animals in our area, which would be the Noatak River area. Once and awhile I go out hunting certain ones, but due to a lack of some of these animals in this area, I feel better to just leave them alone and populate for a better year someday.
- Work kept me away from trapping most of the year, so species that I didn't see may have been around.
- If they sell more 18-gauge chicken wire, I'd keep hunting in the fall. The ones that they sell now won't hold the otters.