

Proposal 25: Muskoxen

PROPOSAL 25 - Hunting seasons and bag limits for muskoxen

DEPARTMENT PROPOSAL

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

This proposal would expand the TX107 hunt area in Unit 23 to include all areas north and west of the Kobuk River drainage.



Advisory Committee Recommendations

Kotzebue Sound AC **Support**

Upper Kobuk AC **Support**

Lower Kobuk AC **Support**

Northern Seward Peninsula AC ... **Support**

Noatak/Kivalina AC **Support**

Current Regulations TX107

Unit 23, that portion north and west of the Noatak River

1 bull by Tier II permit

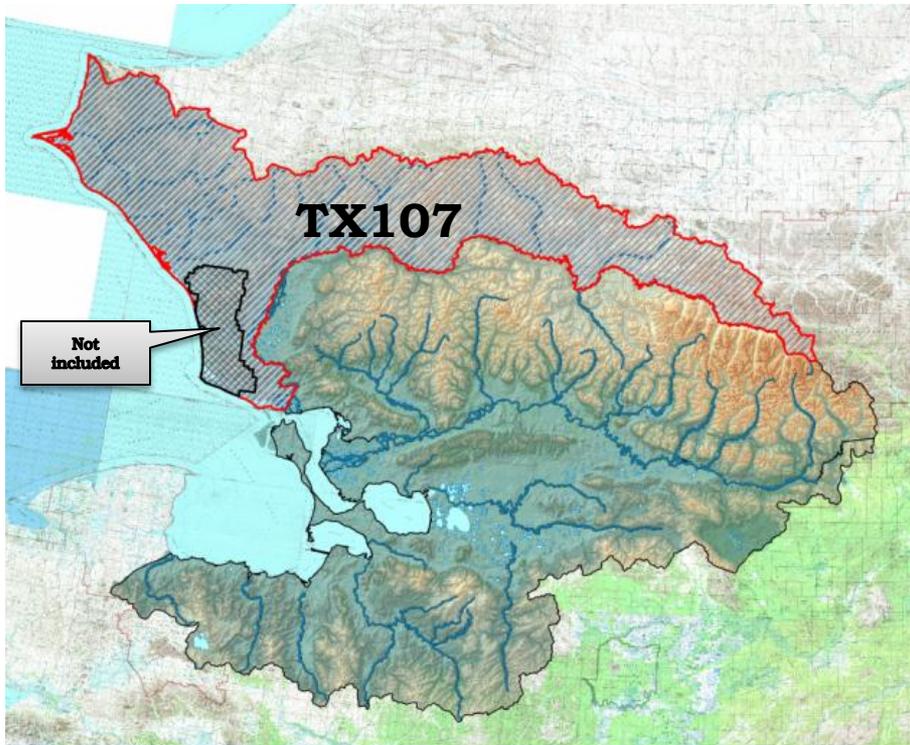
Aug. 1 - Mar. 15

up to 15 bulls may be taken

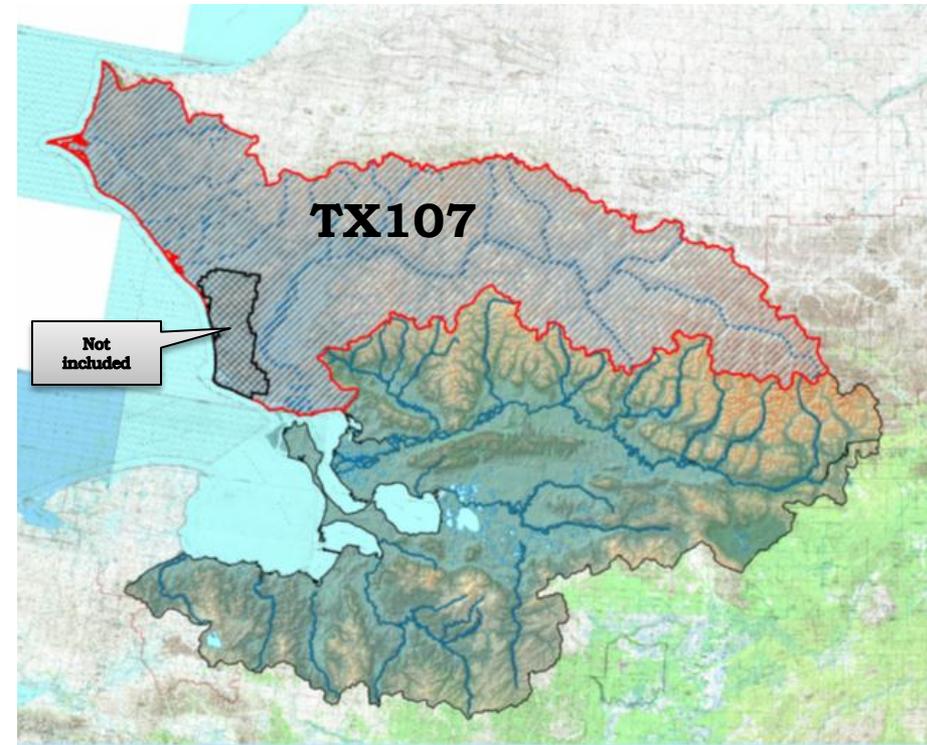


Proposal 25: Muskoxen

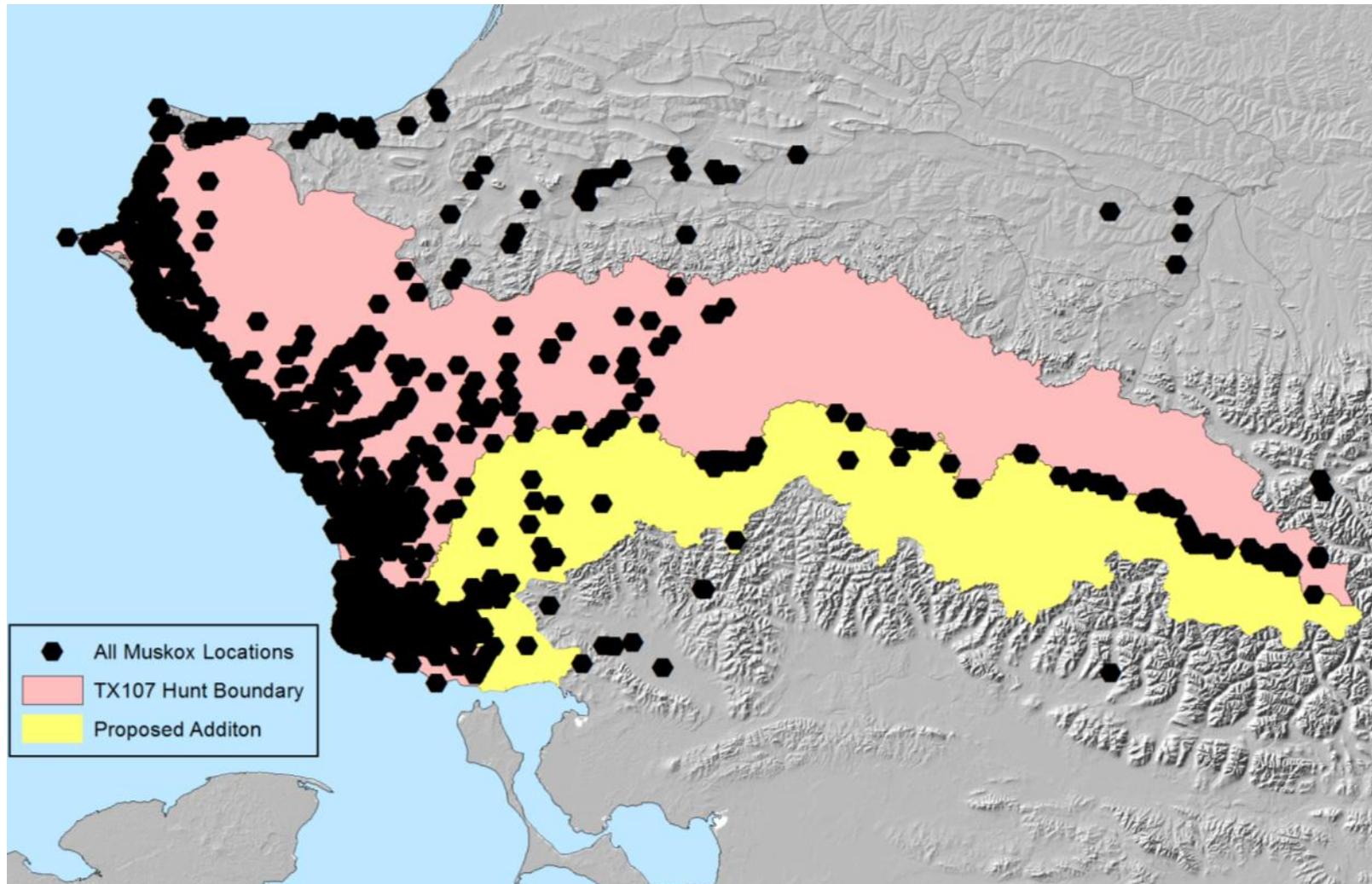
Current Hunt Area



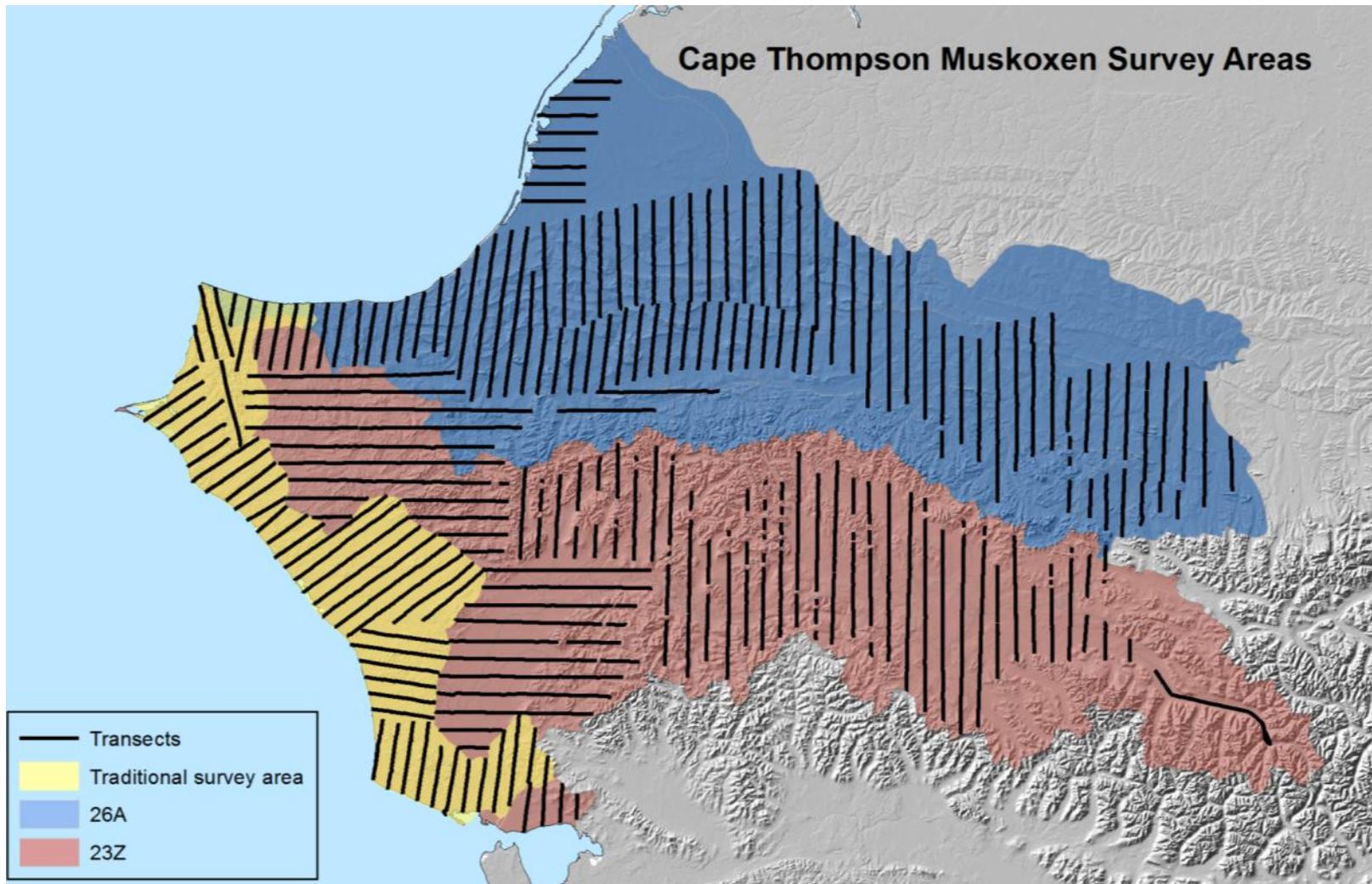
Proposed Hunt Area



All Locations of Muskoxen 1970-2013

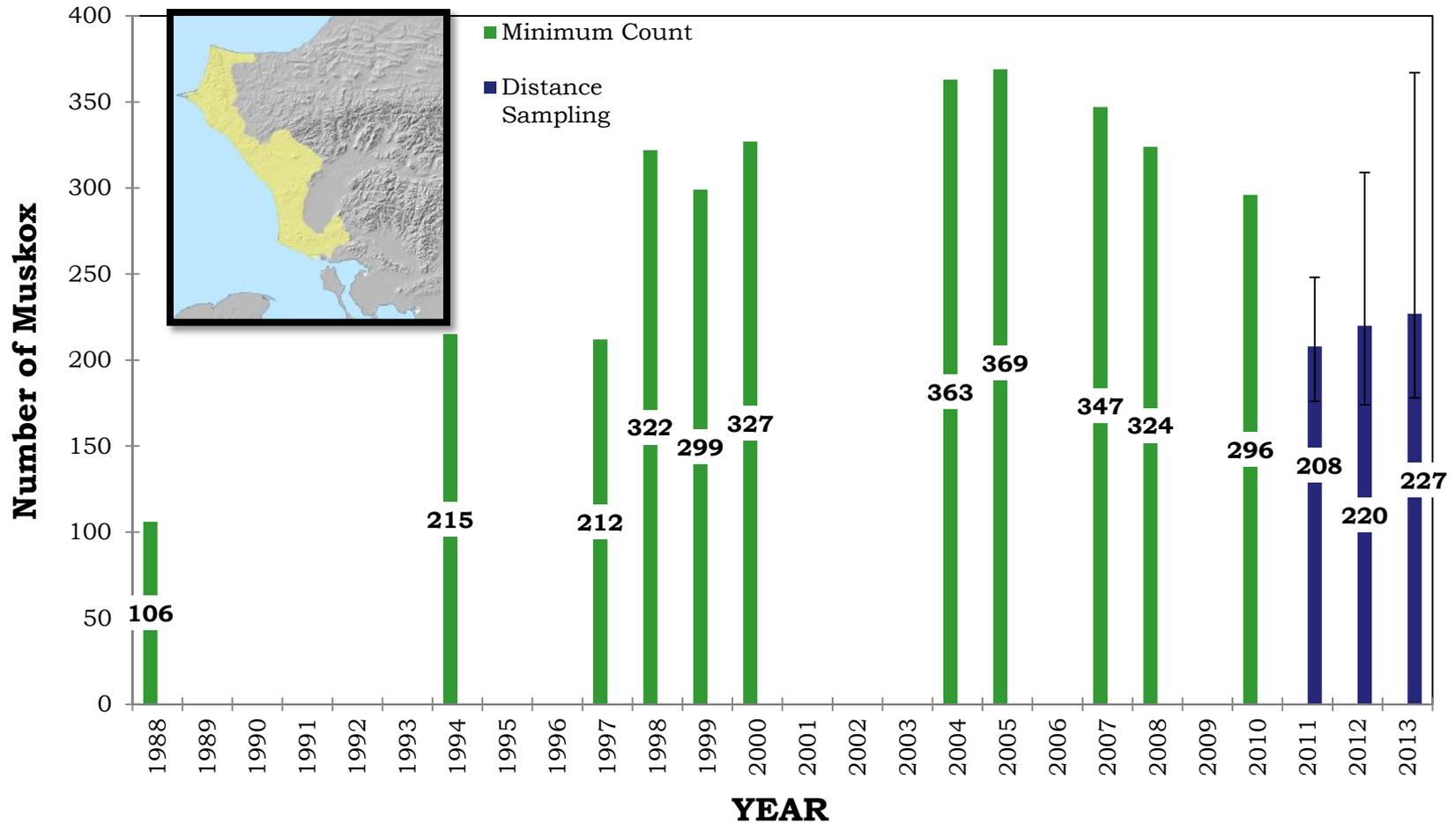


Distance Sample Transects



Cape Thompson Muskoxen

Unit 23 Minimum Count and Distance Sample Results



Herd Trend

Range expansion to inland areas – increased numbers

Herd decline in ‘Traditional Survey Area’ (coastal area)

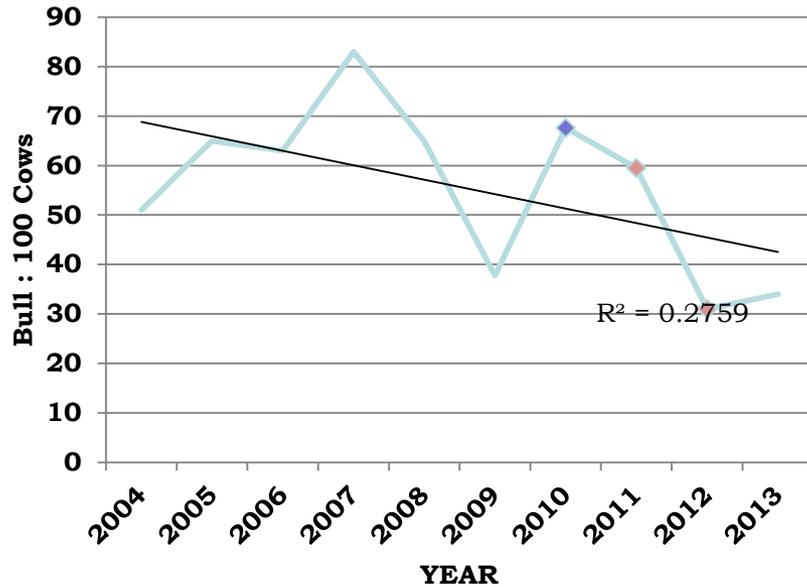
Herd dispersal to Inland Areas (Noatak River drainage)

Declines in Bull:Cow ratios

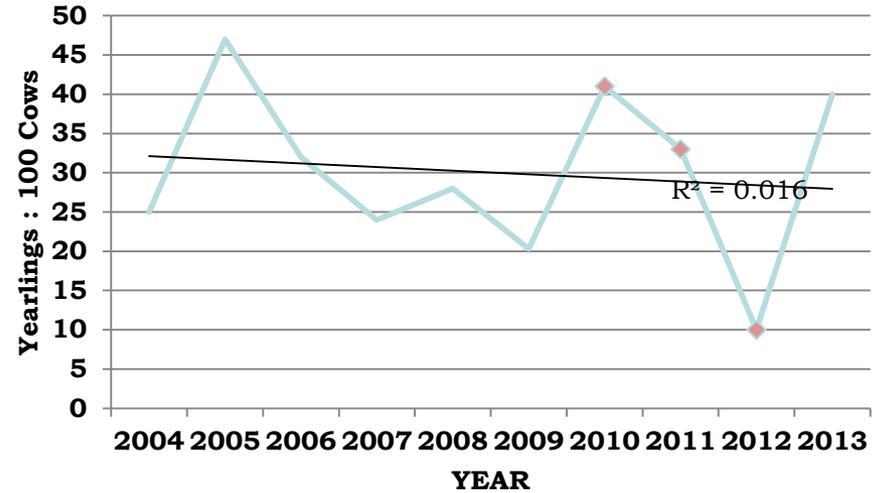
Slight decline in Yearling:Cow ratios

Muskox Composition

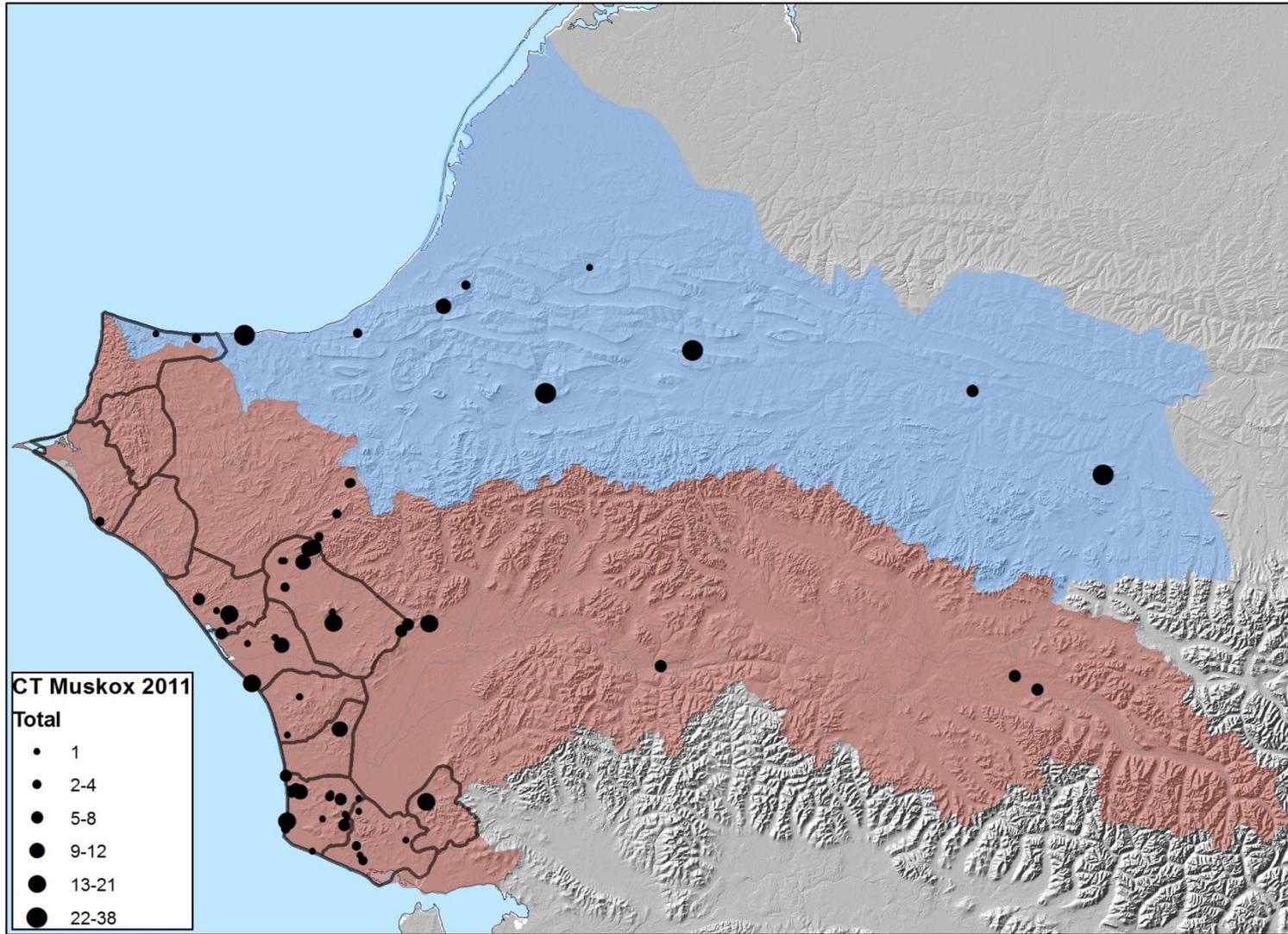
Bull:100 Cows



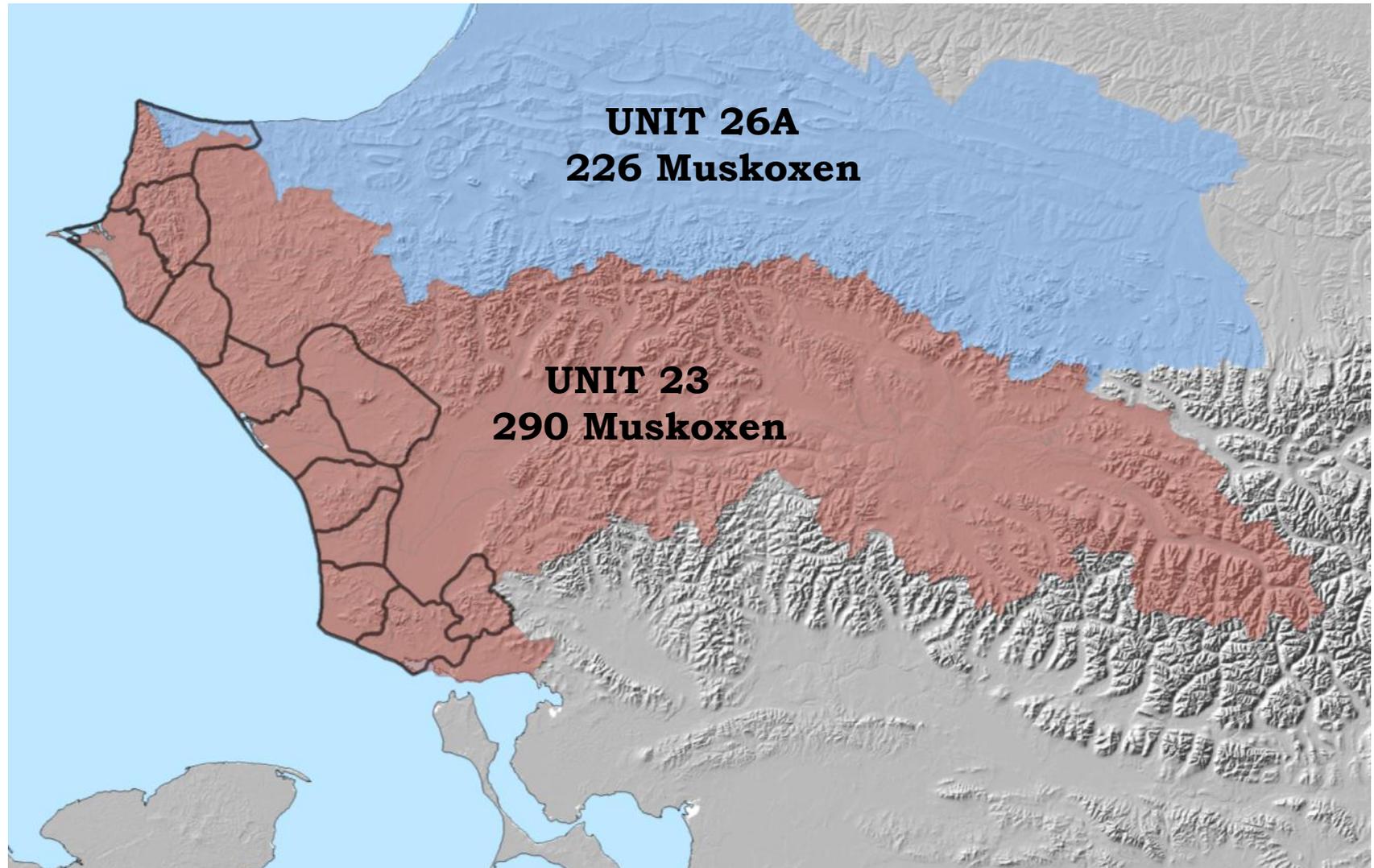
Yearlings:100 Cows



Distance Sample: Muskox Locations



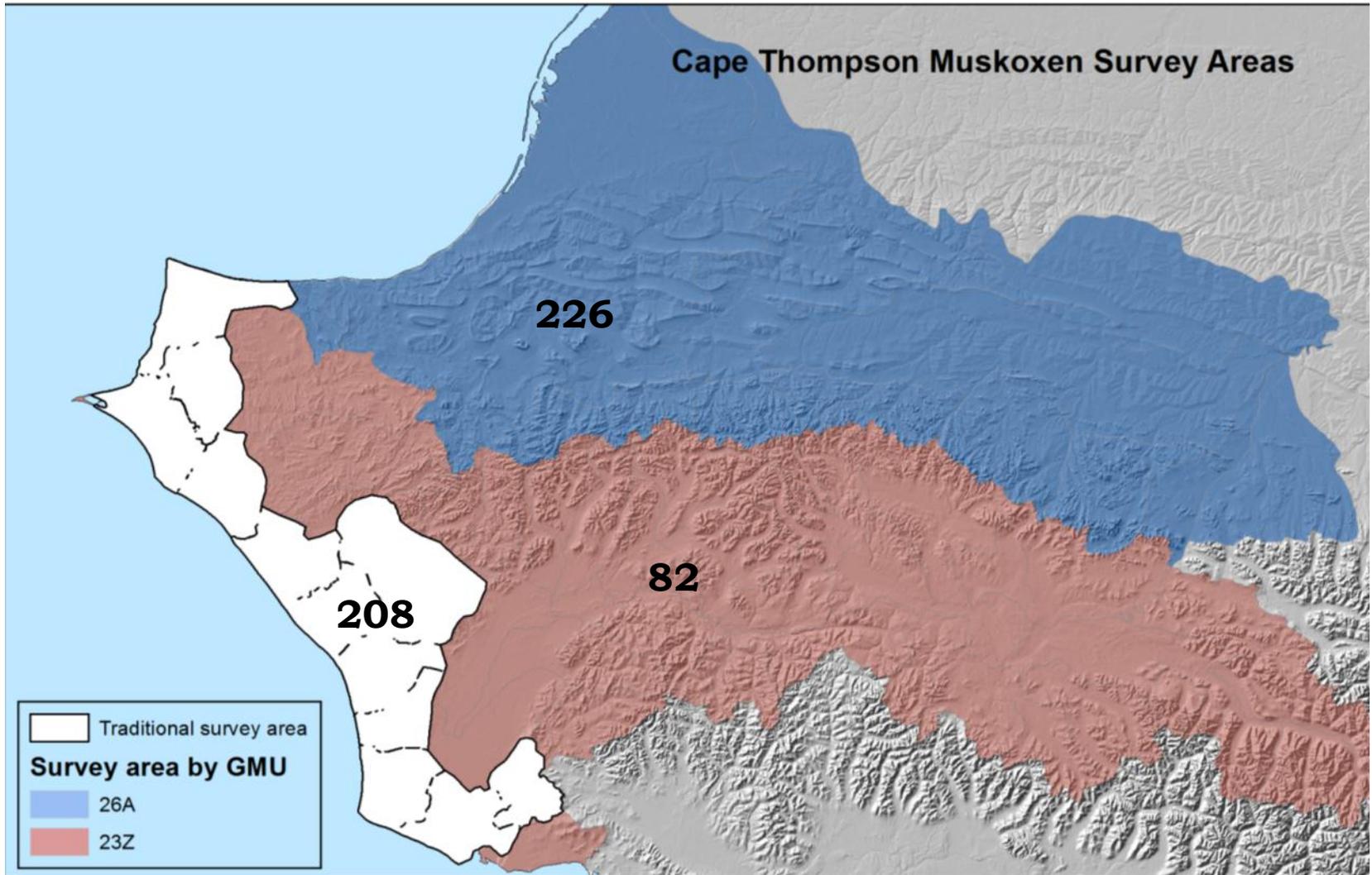
Cape Thompson Herd



Unit 23 Muskox

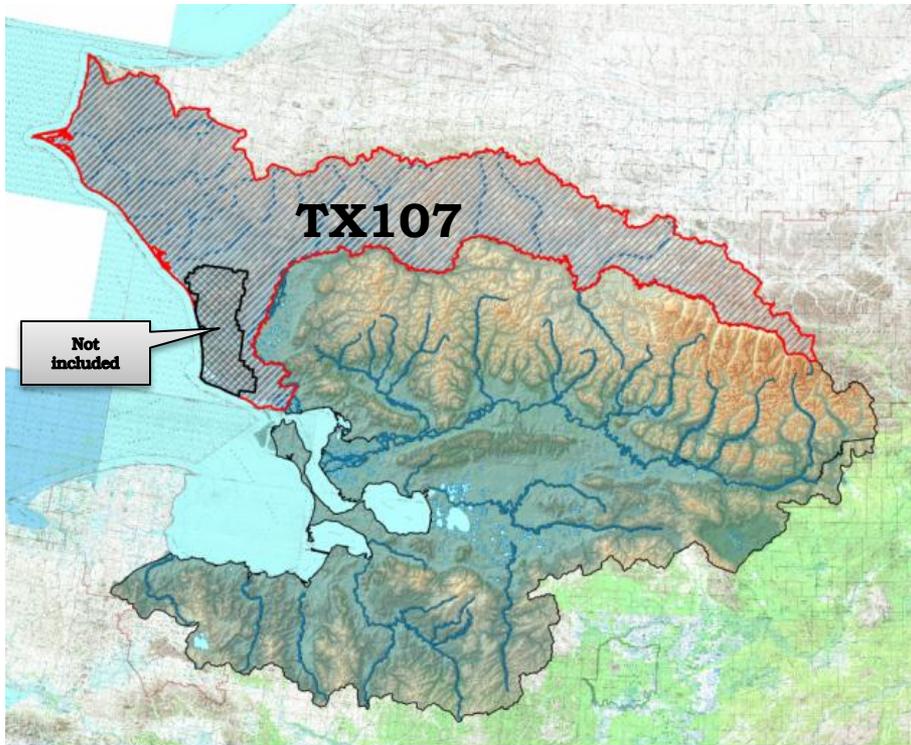
Unit 23: Slide 11

Muskoxen Estimates by Area

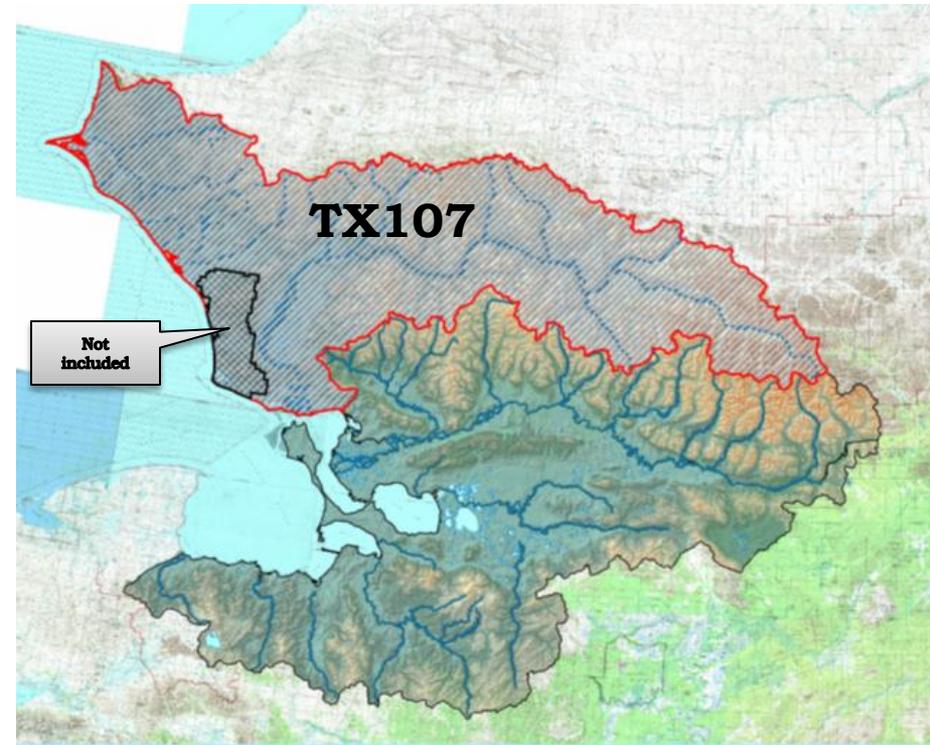


Questions?

Current Hunt Area



Proposed Hunt Area



Proposal 26: Moose

PROPOSAL 26 - Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 23.

This is a DEPARTMENT proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Support**

Advisory Committee Recommendation:

Kotzebue Sound AC	<u>Support</u>
Upper Kobuk AC	<u>Support</u>
Lower Kobuk AC	<u>Support</u>
Northern Seward Peninsula AC ..	<u>Support</u>
Noatak/Kivalina AC	<u>Support</u>

Hunting Regulations

Moose

- In areas indicated by a ★ federal restrictions exist, see page 8.
- In bag limit, "moose" means an animal of either sex; "bull" means a male moose.
- 50-inch antlers and brow tines are defined on pages 34-35.
- In all hunts limited to one sex, evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the meat.
- Meat taken in Unit 23 prior to Oct 1 must remain on the bones of the front quarters, hindquarters and ribs until removed from the field or processed for human consumption.

Review Unit 23 Hunter Orientation
<http://hunt.alaska.gov>

R	23 north of and including Singoalik River drainage	OR	One bull by permit available in person at license vendors within Unit 23 villages June 1-July 15	RM880	July 1-Oct 31	
R			One moose by permit available in person at license vendors within Unit 23 villages June 1-July 15	Taking of a calf or cow accompanied by a calf prohibited	RM880	Nov 1-Dec 31
R			★	One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side	HT	Sept 1-Sept 20
N			One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit	DM871	Sept 1-Sept 20	
R	23 remainder	OR	One bull by permit available in person at license vendors within Unit 23 villages June 1-July 15	RM880	Aug 1-Oct 31	
R			One moose by permit available in person at license vendors within Unit 23 villages June 1-July 15	Taking of a calf or cow accompanied by a calf prohibited	RM880	Nov 1-Dec 31
R			★	One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side	HT	Sept 1-Sept 20
N			One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit	DM871-876/885	Sept 1-Sept 20	

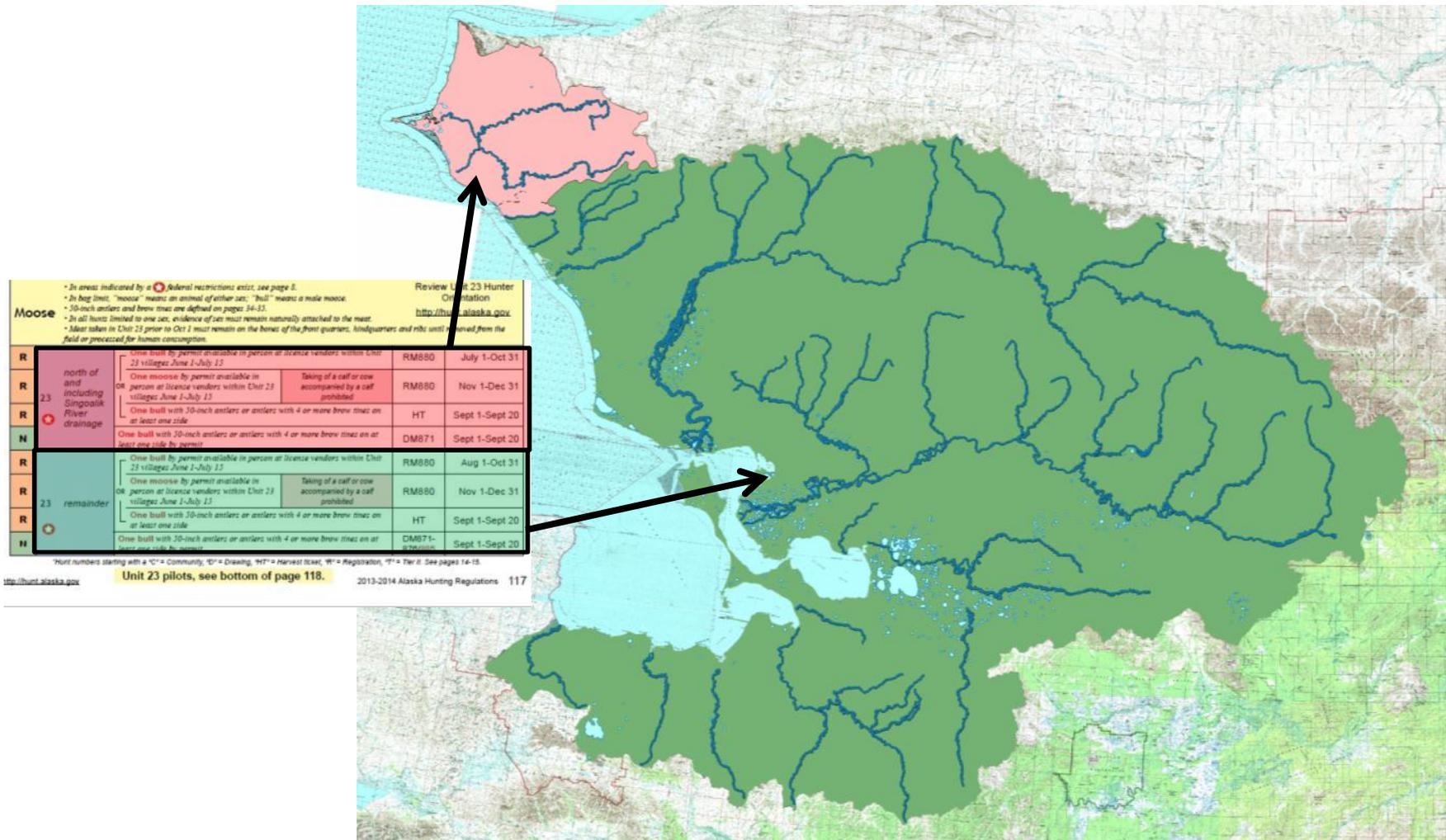
*Hunt numbers starting with a "C" = Community, "D" = Drawing, "HT" = Harvest ticket, "R" = Registration, "T" = Tier II. See pages 14-15.

<http://hunt.alaska.gov>

Unit 23 pilots, see bottom of page 118.

2013-2014 Alaska Hunting Regulations 117

Unit 23 Hunt Areas



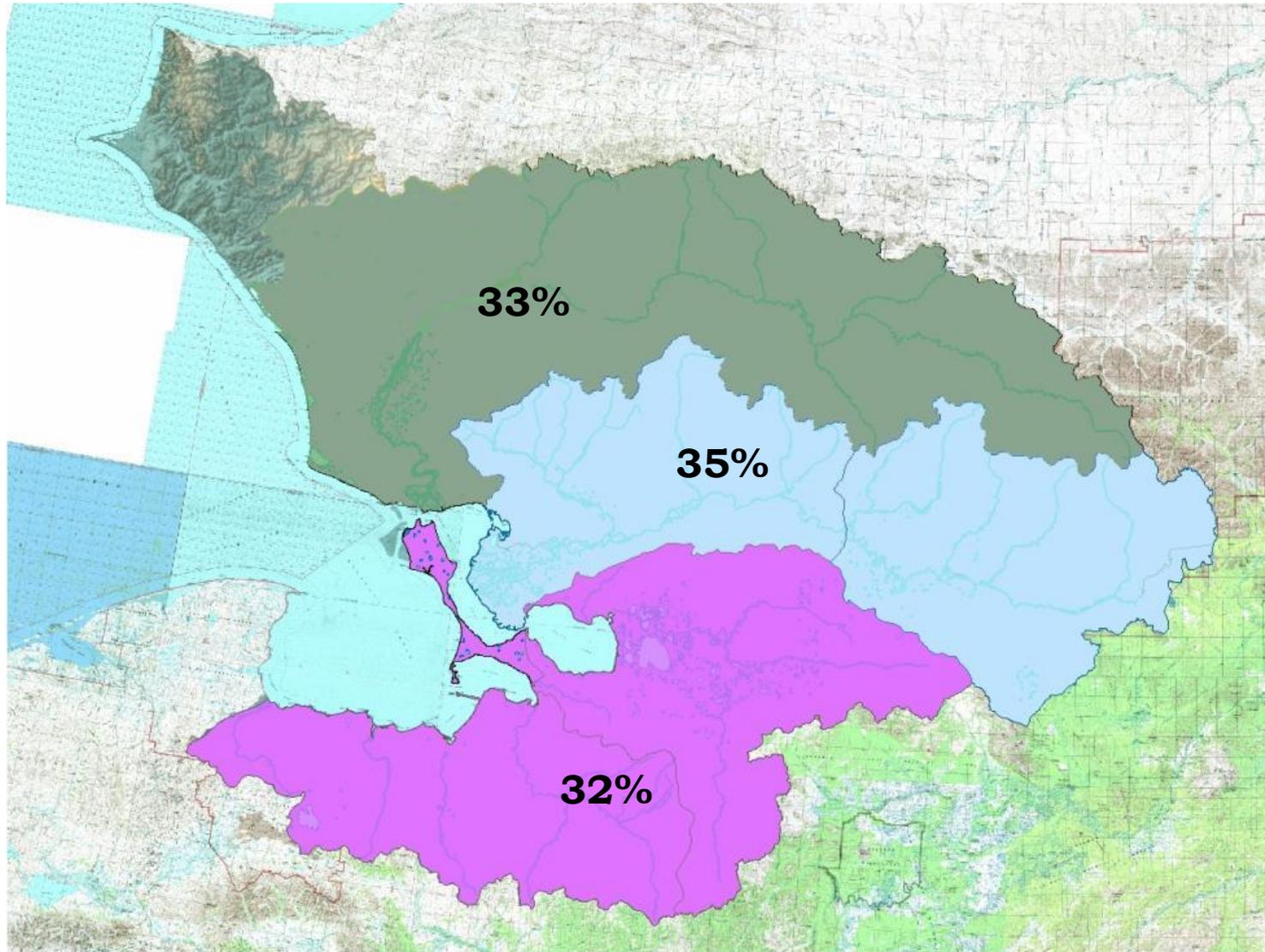
Antlerless Hunt

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?

Residents hunters would be able to harvest antlerless moose on state-managed lands in Unit 23 from Nov. 1 – Dec. 31

Average Annual Antlerless Harvest = 10 cows

Cow Harvest in Unit 23



Unit 23 Antlerless Moose

Proposal 26: Slide 5

Moose Objectives

Unit-wide Estimate

- Population = 7,600 moose
- Harvestable surplus = 450

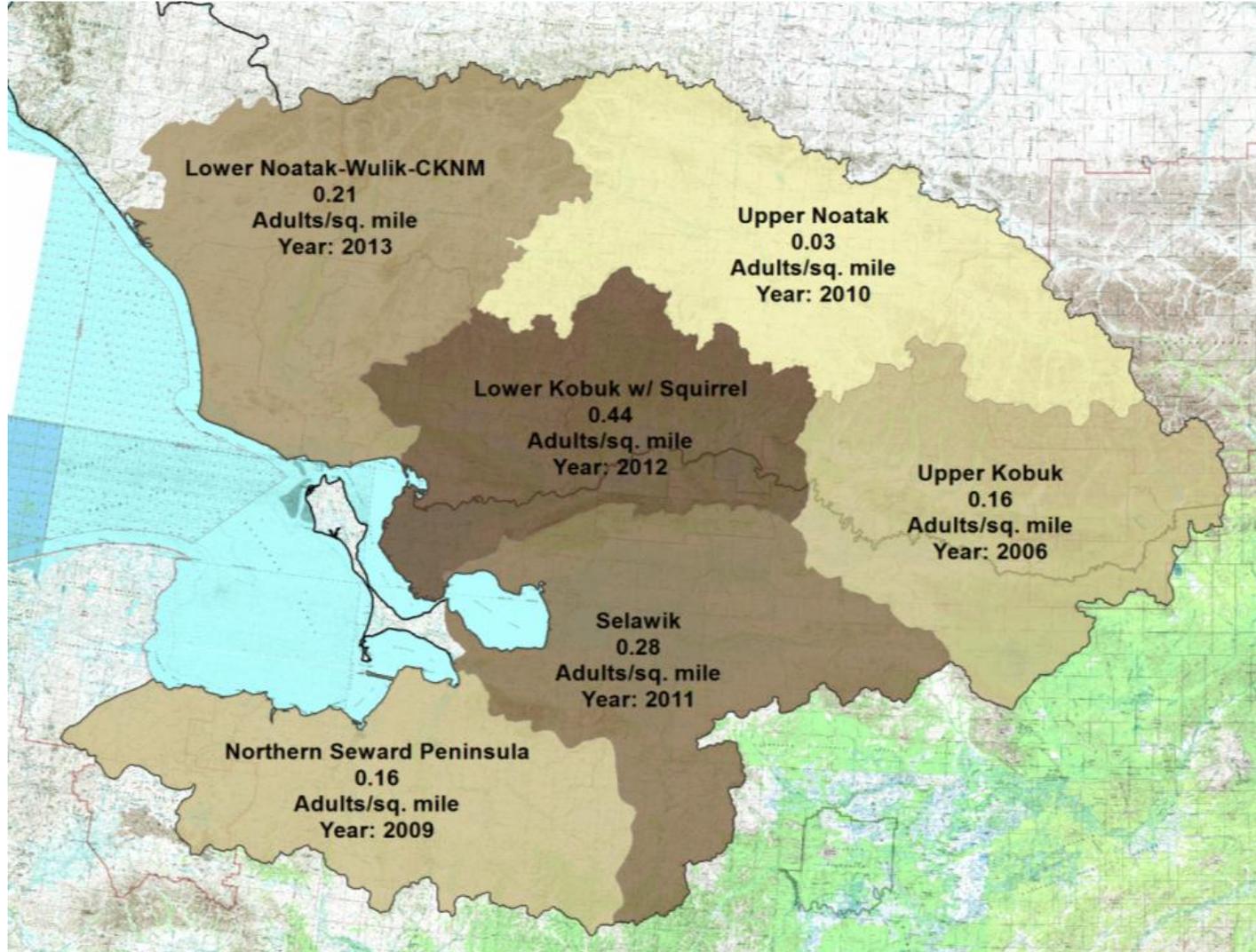
Subsistence

- Positive C&T finding
- ANS 325 – 400 moose

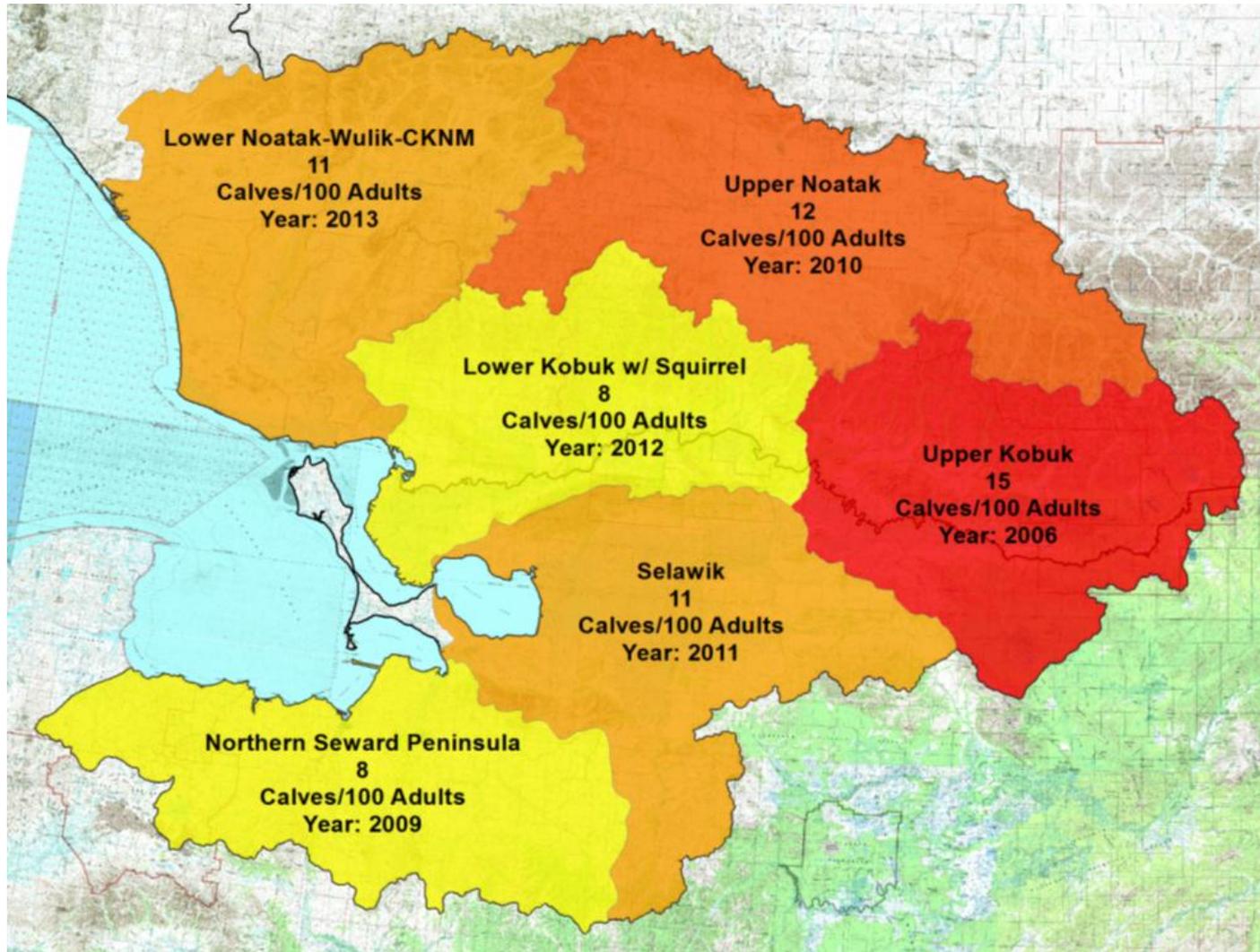
Intensive Management

- Population 3,500 – 9,200 moose
- Harvest 210 – 920 moose

Comparative Densities



Spring Calf Recruitment



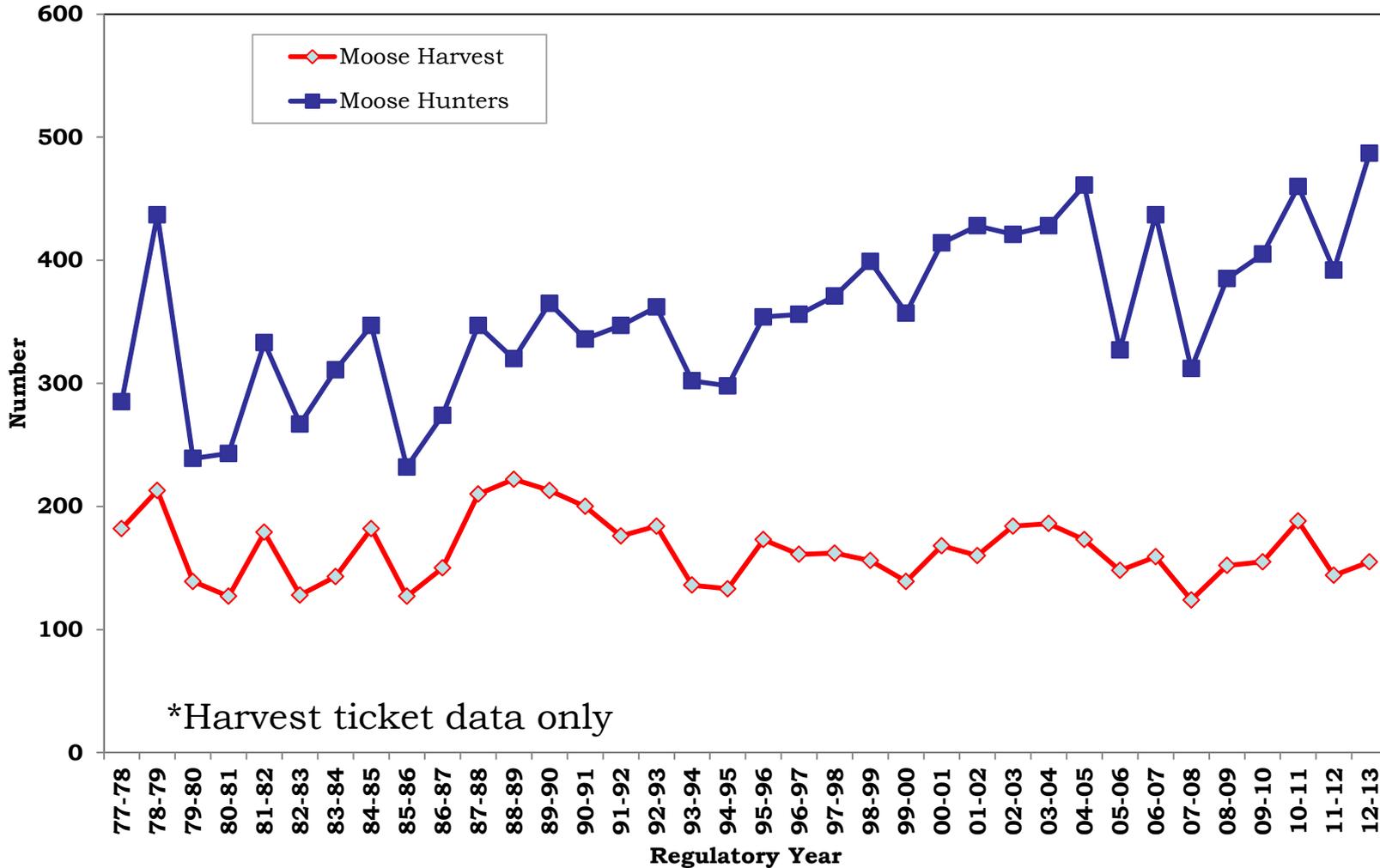
Harvest Opportunity

- Current Regulations
 - ☒ General Moose Hunt
 - ☒ RM880
 - ☒ DM871-877



- Average Reported Harvest = 160 moose
- Average Antlerless = 10 cows

Hunter Participation and Harvest



- End -

Questions?

Proposal 27: Brown Bear

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- On NPS land in Unit 23 – limit harvest to less than 8% of NPS adult population estimates;
- Reinstate the \$25 resident brown bear tag fee;
- Change bag limit to 1 bear every 4 regulatory years

This is a public proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Oppose**

Advisory Committee Recommendation:

Kotzebue Sound AC	<u>Oppose</u>
Upper Kobuk AC	<u>Oppose</u>
Lower Kobuk AC	<u>Oppose</u>
Northern Seward Peninsula AC ...	<u>Oppose</u>
Noatak/Kivalina AC	<u>Amend</u>

Brown Bear Hunting Regulations

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

- Resident tag not required for taking a brown bear
- General Season - 1 bear every regulatory year
Aug. 1 - May 31
- Subsistence Hunt - 1 bear every regulatory year by permit (RB700), Aug. 1 - May 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

- Fall Drawing hunts - 1 bear every regulatory year
Sept. 1 - Oct. 31
- Spring Drawing hunts - 1 bear every regulatory year
Apr. 15 - May 31
- Up to 68 drawing permits may be issued

Advisory Committee Amendment

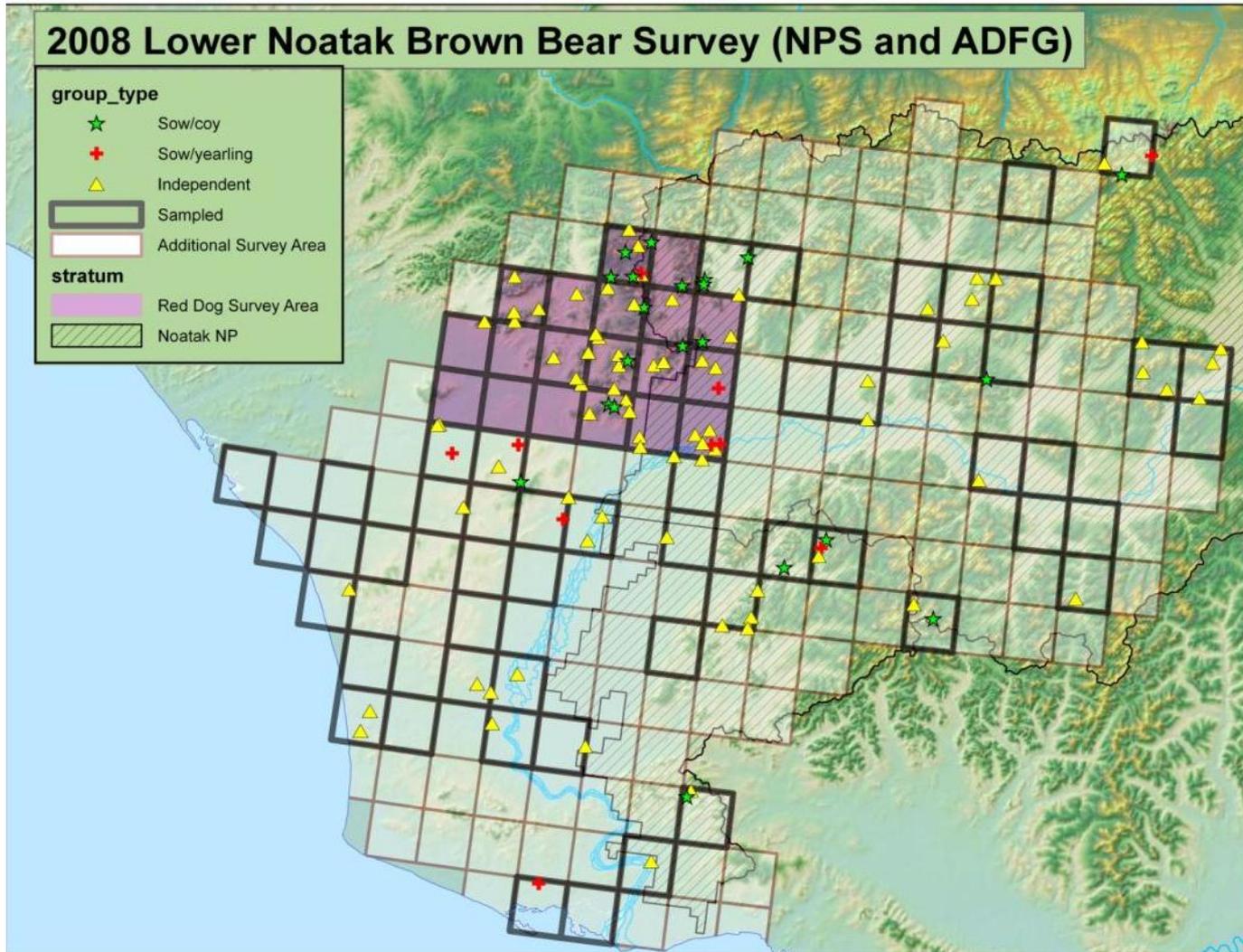
- Amendment by Noatak-Kivalina AC
- Put nonresidents on a registration permit hunt.
- Have nonresident quotas for the permits
- Have a two-year sunset clause.
- Need to increase bear harvest
- Sunset is needed to evaluate for increased users/conflicts and for potential overharvest of bears
- Department is not opposed to an amendment increasing opportunity

Effects of Proposal 27

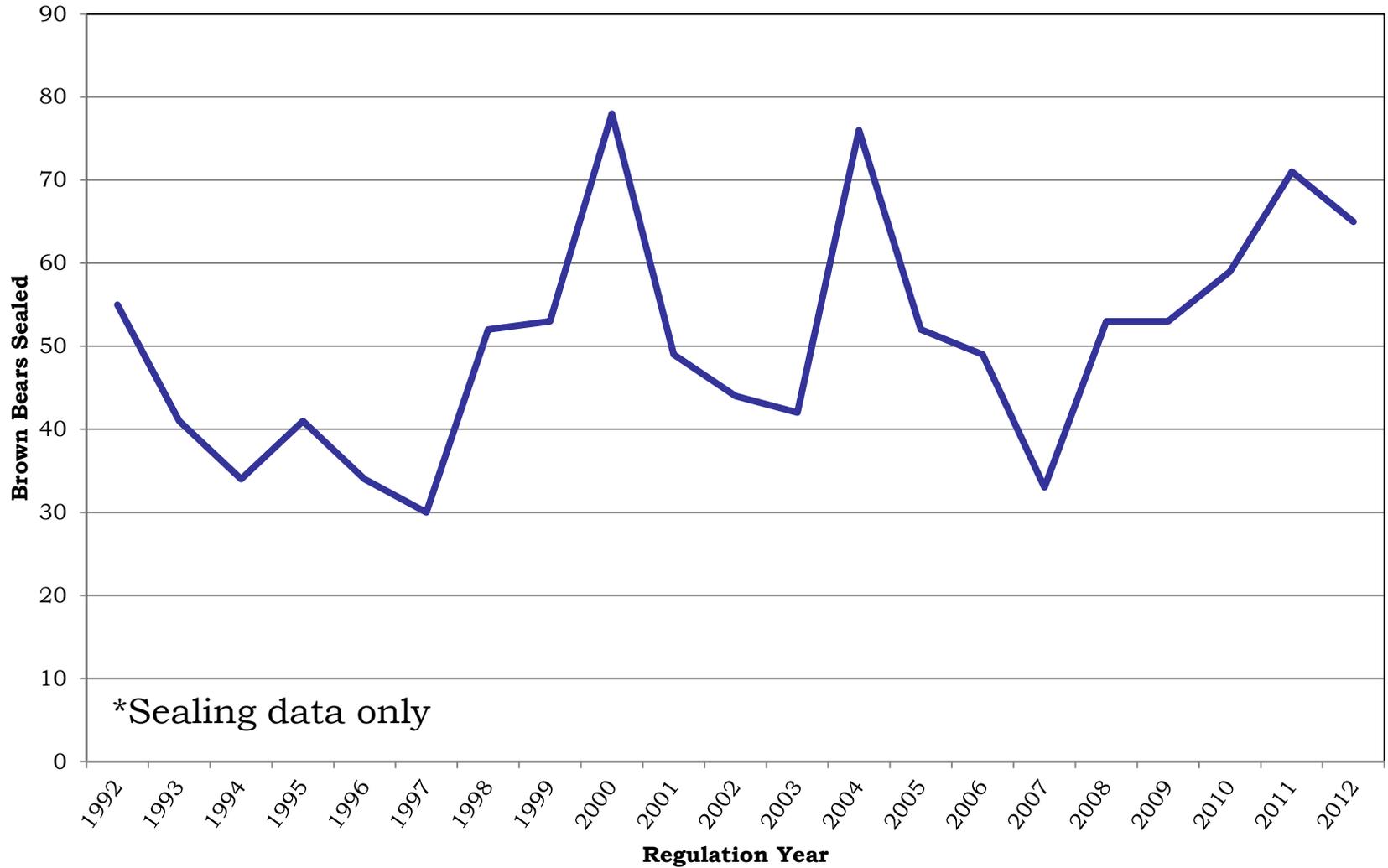
WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?

- Reduced brown bear harvests
- Harvest would be based on NPS estimates
- Residents would have to pay \$25 tag fees
- Increased potential for bear-human conflicts
- Increased potential for predation on moose
- More complicated hunting regulations

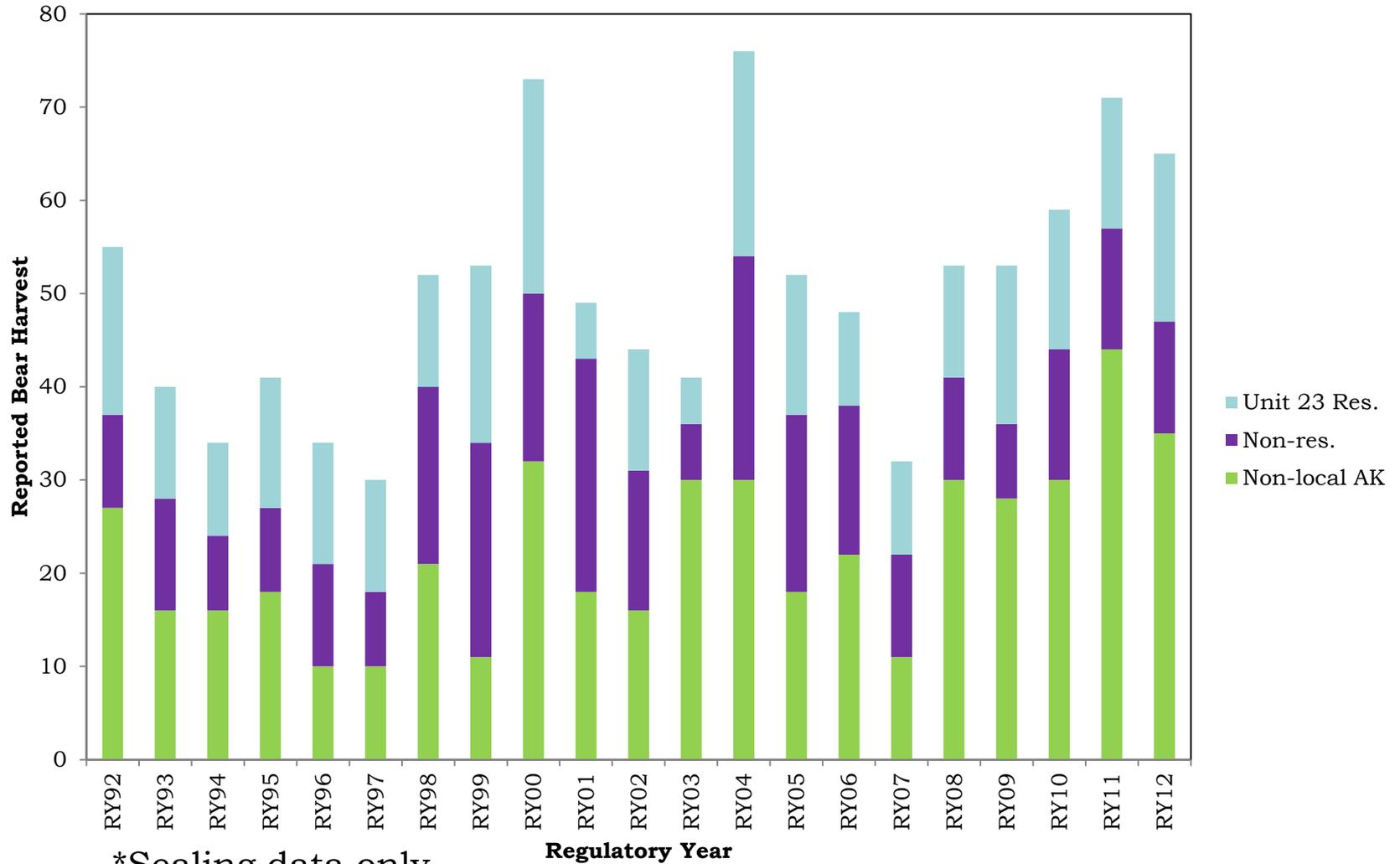
Brown Bear Population Surveys



Brown Bear Annual Harvest

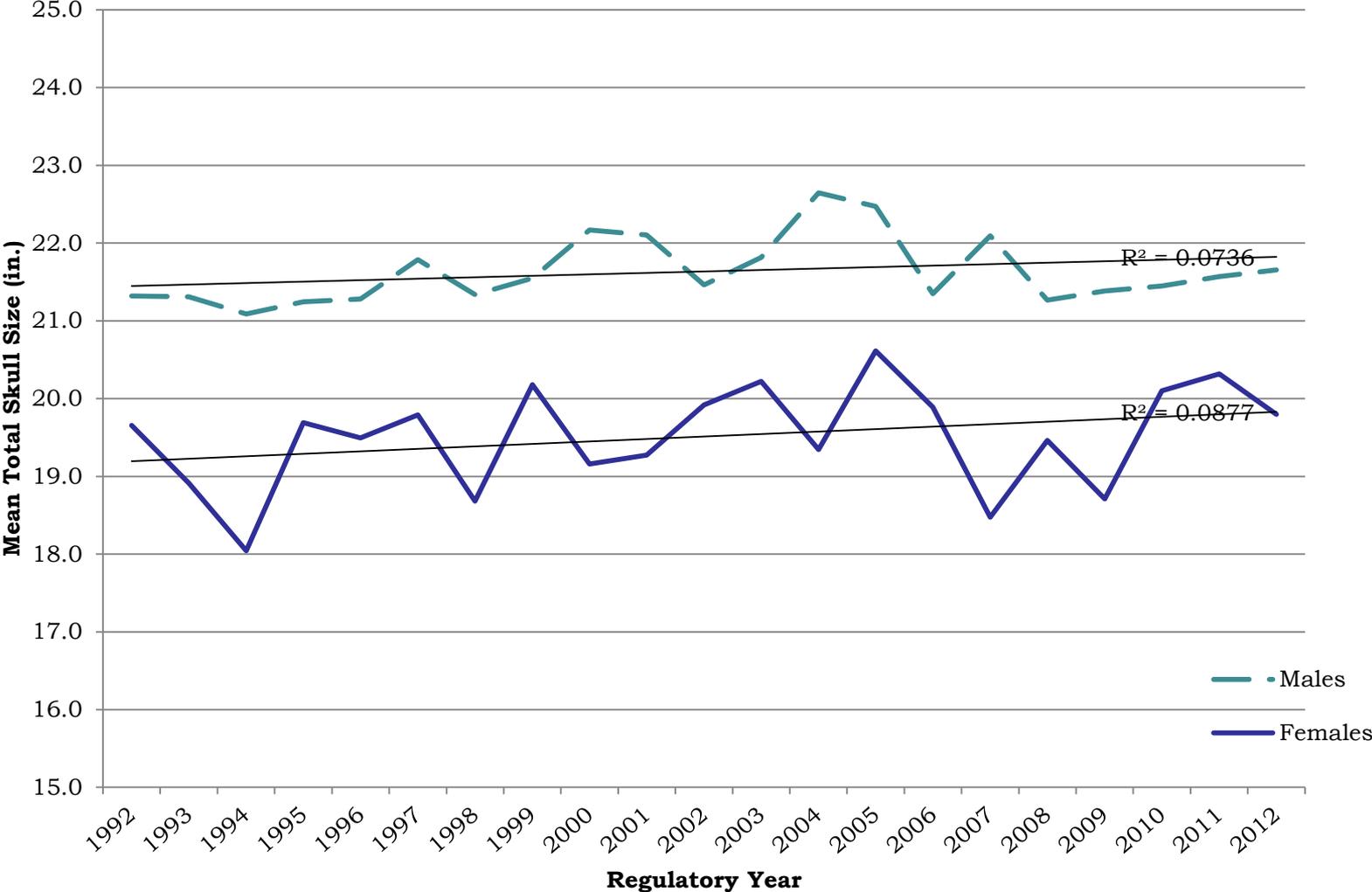


Harvest by Residency



*Sealing data only

Brown Bear Skull Size



Changing Brown Bear Numbers

Anecdotal Reports of Brown Bears

- Substantial reports of increased bear numbers
- Unit-wide.... people think there are more bears
- Bears breaking into camps
- Defense of Life or Property
- Corresponds with population estimates

- End -

Questions?

Proposal 28: Coyote

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

Change the hunting season and bag limits for coyote in Unit 23 to no closed season and no limit.

This is a Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Support**

Advisory Committee Recommendation:

Kotzebue Sound AC	<u>Support</u>
Upper Kobuk AC	<u>Support</u>
Lower Kobuk AC	<u>Support</u>
Northern Seward Peninsula AC ...	<u>Support</u>
Noatak/Kivalina AC	<u>Support</u>

Hunting Regulations

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

Bag Limit

Season

Units 1 - 5, 18, 22, **23**, and 26(A)

2 coyotes

Sept. 1 – Apr. 30

Units 6 - 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C)

No limit

July 1 – June 30

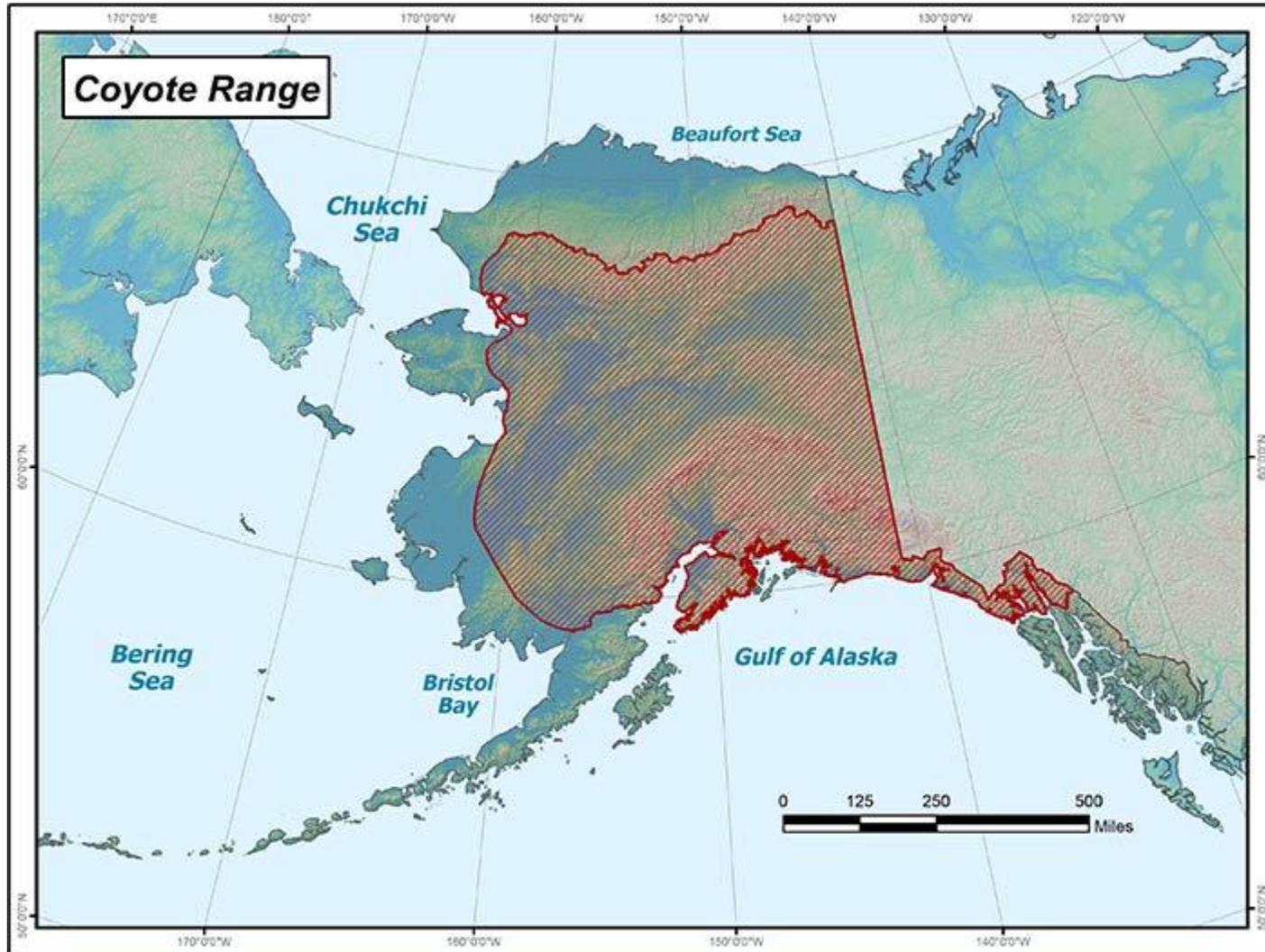
PROPOSED REGULATION

Unit 23

No limit

July 1 – June 30

Coyote Range Map



Effect of Proposal

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?

- Simplify regulations
- Provide additional harvest opportunity
- Align regulations with Interior Region (source areas)

- End -

Questions?

Unit 23: Proposal 29

PROPOSAL 29 – 5 AAC 92.200 (b) (4), (c) (2). Purchase and sale of game.

PROPOSED BY: Public proposal.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would allow the sale of antlers from caribou harvested in Unit 23.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? A person may not purchase, sell, advertise or otherwise offer for sale the antler of a caribou taken in Unit 23, unless the antler is a naturally shed antler or has been made into an article of handicraft.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE

ADOPTED? People could buy and sell unmodified antlers from caribou that had been harvested or had died of natural causes as long as they had been removed from the skull. Shed antlers and handicrafts could continue to be bought and sold.

Department Recommendation: **Neutral**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Kotzebue Sound AC **Oppose**

Upper Kobuk AC **Oppose**

Lower Kobuk AC **Oppose**

Northern Seward Peninsula AC ... **Oppose**

Noatak/Kivalina AC **Oppose**

BACKGROUND:

- Note: In 1990 Subsistence Division submitted a report to the BOG “Trade in Wild Antlers in Northwest Alaska” – it describes the last active commercial trade in ‘raw’ antlers that occurred in Unit 23 during the late 1980s and early 1990s
- Roughly 10,000 caribou are harvested in Unit 23 annually, many along the major rivers in the fall – nowhere else in Alaska provides the public with the potential to sell thousands of dollars worth of caribou antlers each year



BACKGROUND:

- Few subsistence hunters salvage the antlers of caribou they harvest for any purpose other than commercial sale – antler buyers have long tried to capitalize on this windfall of material
- Antler sales occurred primarily during the fall hunting season
- The price paid for antlers varied relative to: freshness, size, palmation, amount wanted, and the number of buyers:
 - \$1.25-2.50/lb – bulk antlers
 - \$20.00/lb paid for small quantities of select antlers
 - In 1990 the antlers of a mature bull caribou were worth roughly \$20.00, and a drum of gas was worth \$100.00
 - Today, a drum of gas in most Unit 23 villages is worth roughly \$530.00 (\$10.00/gal)
- High volume – thousands of pounds of antlers were traded each year

BACKGROUND:

- Residents of Unit 23 were divided about selling antlers:
 - The high cost of living and few jobs made antler sales attractive – buyers purchased antlers on river banks and in villages
 - Opponents of antler sales were concerned that the ease of converting antlers to cash would provide a strong incentive for ‘head hunting’ and waste
- In 1990, the BOG passed a proposal from the Kotzebue Sound AC to prohibit the sale of unmodified antlers from caribou in Unit 23
- The regulation was later modified to allow the sale of naturally shed antlers, and handicrafts made from caribou antlers

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- New developments since the regulation was first passed:
 - The cost of gas has substantially increased – an added incentive to trade antlers
 - The WAH began to decline 4-6% annually around 2003
 - The bull:cow ratio has been slowly decreasing since the early 1990s and is now approaching the management objective of 40:100
 - If antler sales result in additional harvests of bulls, reductions in seasons or bag limits may become necessary to avoid skewing the sex ratio of this population
 - In some years, the WAH fall migration has occurred late and many communities have not had access to bulls prior to rut



– End –

Questions?

Proposals 30, 31, 32, 33: Sheep

These proposals change sheep hunts in the Arctic/Western Region to accomplish:

- Early season opening for residents (Proposals 30, 31)
- Bow hunting only season (Proposal 32)
- Limit nonresident drawing permits to 10% (Proposal 33)

These are public proposals.

Department Recommendation: **Neutral**

The board has a committee working on sheep proposals presented at regional meetings.

– End –

Questions?

Proposals 34: Unit 26 Game Harvest

This proposal allocates a small percentage of the most abundant game species to nonresident harvest in Unit 26.

This is public proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Neutral**

Advisory Committee Recommendation:

North Slope AC No Action

Unit 26A Estimated Annual Harvest

<u>Game species</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>
Black bear	none	none
Brown bear (RY2003 – RY2012)	7	8
Caribou (RY1989 – RY2009)	4,500	40
Moose (RY2003 – RY2012)	9 (+5 unreported)	<1
Muskox	- no open season -	
Sheep (RY2003 – RY2012) (not including GAAR federal, or unreported)	2	3
Wolf (RY1994 – RY2007)	15 (+28 unreported)	1
Wolverine (94-07) (RY1994 – RY2007) (not including unreported)	16	<1

- End -

Questions?

Proposals 35: Bear Snaring

This proposal prohibits the use of snares to take bears in the Arctic/Western Region (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

This is public proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Neutral**

Arctic/Western Region

Advisory Committee Recommendations:

Arctic Region (Units 22, 23, 26A)

Kotzebue	<u>Oppose</u>
Lower Kobuk	<u>Support</u>
Noatak/Kivalina	No Action
North Slope AC	No Action
Northern Norton Sound	No Action
Northern Seward Peninsula	<u>Support</u>
St. Lawrence Island	No Action
Southern Norton Sound	No Action
Upper Kobuk	<u>Oppose</u>

Western Region (Unit 18)

Central Bering Sea	No Action
Lower Kuskokwim	No Action
Lower Yukon	No Action

Background

Black bears are classed as 'furbearers' in 5 AAC 92.990 (21)

Furbearers are subject to taking under trapping regulations

There are no black bear trapping regulation in effect in the Arctic/Western Region

Bear snaring is permitted in predation control areas identified in intensive management programs.

Bear snaring is not an authorized method of take in areas outside of control programs.

There are no predation control programs in Region V.

No bear snaring take bears in Region V.

- End -

Questions?

Proposals 36: Drawing Permit

This proposal allocates 90% of drawing permits to residents in the Arctic/Western Region. The allocation would apply only to hunts open to both residents and nonresidents.

This is public proposal.

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Arctic/Western Region

Advisory Committee Recommendations:

Arctic Region (Units 22, 23, 26A)

Kotzebue	No Action
Lower Kobuk	<u>Support</u>
Noatak/Kivalina	No Action
North Slope AC	No Action
Northern Norton Sound	No Action
Northern Seward Peninsula	<u>Oppose</u>
St. Lawrence Island	No Action
Southern Norton Sound	No Action
Upper Kobuk	No Action

Western Region (Unit 18)

Central Bering Sea	No Action
Lower Kuskokwim	No Action
Lower Yukon	No Action

Proposed Changes

Minimum of 90% permits to residents

Maximum of 10% permits to nonresidents

Hunts with less than 10 permits are for residents only, unless undersubscribed

Undersubscribed 'resident' permits:

- Issued to nonresidents
- Available 'over-the-counter, first-come, first-served' to both residents and nonresidents
- Do another drawing

Resident/Nonresident Draw Hunts

Arctic/Western Region hunts open to residents/nonresidents

Moose

Unit 26A, Colville R. DM980, DM981

Muskox

Unit 18, Nunivak Is. DX001, DX003

Sheep

Units 23 and 26A DS384

5-yr Average Draw Hunt Participation

RY2007 – RY2012

Hunt	Nr. Res Appl	% Res Appl	Nr. Nonres Appl	% Nonres Appl	Avg Total Permits	Nr. Res Permit	% Res Permit	Nr. Nonres Permit	% Nonres Permit
DM980	33	80	8	20	9	7.8	87	1.2	13
DM981	40	68	19	32	8.6	6.8	79	1.8	21
DX001	258	91	26	9	9.2	8.2	89	1.0	11
DX003	649	92	59	8	43.2	41.2	95	2.0	5
DS384	106	79	28	21	10.8	7.8	72	3.0	28

5-yr average resident applications range from..... 68 – 92 %

5-yr average resident permits range from..... 72 – 95 %

- End -

Questions?

Proposals 37: Drawing Permits

This proposal allocates 90% of drawing permits to residents and 10% to nonresidents in the Arctic/Western Region. The allocation would apply only to hunts open to both residents and nonresidents.

This is public proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Neutral**

Arctic/Western Region

Advisory Committee Recommendations:

Arctic Region (Units 22, 23, 26A)

Kotzebue	No Action
Lower Kobuk	<u>Support</u>
Noatak/Kivalina	No Action
North Slope AC	<u>Oppose</u>
Northern Norton Sound	No Action
Northern Seward Peninsula	<u>Oppose</u>
St. Lawrence Island	No Action
Southern Norton Sound	No Action
Upper Kobuk	No Action

Western Region (Unit 18)

Central Bering Sea	No Action
Lower Kuskokwim	No Action
Lower Yukon	No Action

Proposed Changes

90% permits to residents

10% permits to nonresidents

Undersubscribed permits:

- Sold 'over-the-counter, first-come basis'

Resident/Nonresident Draw Hunts

Arctic/Western Region hunts open to residents/nonresidents

Moose

Unit 26A, Colville R. DM980, DM981

Muskox

Unit 18, Nunivak Is. DX001, DX003

Sheep

Units 23 and 26A DS384

5-yr Average Draw Hunt Participation

RY2007 – RY2012

Hunt	Avg. Res Appl	% Res Appl	Avg. Nonres Appl	% Nonres Appl	Avg. Total Permits	Avg. Res Permit	% Res Permit	Avg. Nonres Permit	% Nonres Permit
DM980	33	80	8	20	9	7.8	87	1.2	13
DM981	40	68	19	32	8.6	6.8	79	1.8	21
DX001	258	91	26	9	9.2	8.2	89	1.0	11
DX003	649	92	59	8	43.2	41.2	95	2.0	5
DS384	106	79	28	21	10.8	7.8	72	3.0	28

5-yr average resident applications range from..... 68 – 92 %

5-yr average resident permits range from..... 72 – 95 %

– End –

Questions?

Proposals 38: Bear Tag Exemption

This proposal reauthorizes the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in the Arctic/Western Region (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

This is Department proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Support**

Arctic/Western Region

Advisory Committee Recommendations:

Arctic Region (Units 22, 23, 26A)

Kotzebue	<u>Support</u>
Lower Kobuk	<u>Support</u>
Noatak/Kivalina	<u>Support</u>
North Slope AC	No Action
Northern Norton Sound	<u>Support</u>
Northern Seward Peninsula	<u>Support</u>
St. Lawrence Island	No Action
Southern Norton Sound	<u>Support</u>
Upper Kobuk	<u>Support</u>

Western Region (Unit 18)

Central Bering Sea	No Action
Lower Kuskokwim	No Action
Lower Yukon	No Action

Resident Tag Exemptions

General Season hunt exemptions

Unit 18	2 years	no change in 10-yr average
Unit 22	12 years	average = 50/yr, range 41 – 63
Unit 23	7 years	no change in trends
Unit 26A	2 years	no change in 10-yr average

Subsistence hunt exemptions

Registration permit required

Salvage meat for human consumption

No use of aircraft in Units 22, 23, 26A

No sealing required unless removed from subsistence area

If sealed, skin of head and front claws removed by ADF&G

Regional subsistence harvest is low

Annual regional total ranges from 3 – 10 bears per year

- End -

Questions?