

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**BLACK BEAR
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-27-5

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT NR.: 17.0

PROJECT LOCATION: Game Management Regions 1, 2, and 3

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations

PERIOD: 1 July 2001–2002

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This statewide performance report includes the three regions involved in black bear survey and inventory activities. Statewide and regional activities are listed before specific activities by herd and game management unit.

**The Status of Alaska Black Bears
and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region I**

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

This draft satisfies the activity described.

Activity 2: Provide information to the Board of Game on black bear management.

Provided information at the January 2002 Board of Game meeting for the board's consideration of a proposal to eliminate the sealing requirement for black bears.

Activity 3: Monitor the hunt and seal all black bears harvested and presented for sealing.

ADF&G Wildlife Conservation staff as well as FWP Troopers and designated sealing agents sealed black bears harvested in the region. Area biologists and other staff tracked harvest trends and collected biological samples as possible. The Kuiu Island nonresident harvest was monitored to keep the kill within the 120 bear guideline harvest level established by the board.

Activity 4: Measure all skulls and determine the sex of sealed bears.

Black bear skulls were measured and the sex determined as bears were sealed. Except in cases where the hunter damaged the skull or external sex identifiers were removed, this data was collected on every bear presented for sealing. At least 774 black bears were sealed in Region I during the period, including a minimum of 13 that were the result of road kills or DLP circumstances.

Activity 5: Draft a black bear management report.

The 3-year black bear management report was completed in spring 2002 and submitted to headquarters.

Activity 6: Coordinate with community decision makers on local bear issues.

The Ketchikan Area Biologist spent considerable time working up a cooperative agreement with Craig municipal leaders regarding black bears in that community. In Juneau, the area biologist and assistant area biologist spent a lot of time working with a city-appointed committee to address urban bears. In other communities biologists devoted efforts to bear/human interactions.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands) = \$87.8

Submitted by: Bruce Dinneford, Wildlife Biologist IV

The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Activity 2: Prepare a black bear management report.

Draft black bear management reports were prepared during spring 2002.

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on black bear management.

Presented information to the Board of Game regarding black bears in Region 2 during its spring 2001 meeting.

Activity 4: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters.

Preliminary harvest information was available from sealing reports.

Activity 5: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Activities by Unit

Unit 6

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2001–02 harvest was:

Males	300	Females	124	Unknown	0	Total	424
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Note: tooth extraction not a requirement in Unit 6

Units 7 and 15

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2000–01 harvest was:

Males	260	Females	89	Unknown	1	Total	350
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Units 11 and 13

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2001–02 harvest was:

GMU 13	Males 61	Females 20	Unknown 0	Total	81
GMU 11	Males 12	Females 5	Unknown 0	Total	17

Unit 14

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2001–02 harvest was:

Males 70	Females 32	Unknown 0	Total	102
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Unit 16

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2001–02 harvest was:

Males 97	Females 49	Unknown 1	Total	47
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Unit 17

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2001–02 harvest was:

Males 7	Females 0	Unknown 0	Total	7
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Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

Weather prohibited completion of a brown/black bear survey technique investigation in northern Unit 16, 14B and 13E in spring 2002.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): 40.1

Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Assistant Management Coordinator

The Status of Alaska Black Bear and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region III

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Wrote annual survey and inventory performance reports for all units.

Activity 2: Draft a management report on black bear.

Drafted management reports for all units.

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game and advisory committees on black bear management

Provided information to the Board of Game and advisory committees as needed.

Activities by Unit

Unit 12

Activity 1: Seal bears and analyze harvest data.

Sealed 18 black bears (55% male) and updated harvest tables.

Activity 2: Monitor and analyze permit distribution for black bear bait stations.

Administered 35 black bear bait station permits, and during the permitting process had each hunter precisely map the location of his/her bait sites to monitor distribution of hunters.

Units 20A, 20B, 20C, and 20F

Activity 1: Seal bears and analyze harvest data.

Sealed several hundred black bears and analyze harvest data for RY98-RY00 management report.

Activity 2: Monitor and analyze permit distribution for black bear bait stations.

Administered over 1000 bait station permits and analyzed black bear bait station permit distribution for RY98-RY00 management report.

Activity 3: Submit teeth from bears harvested in Units 20A and 20B for age analysis.

Did not submit teeth for aging because they were lost.

Unit 20D

Activity 1: Seal bears and analyze harvest data.

Sealed 7 black bears and analyzed harvest data.

Activity 2: Monitor and analyze permit distribution for black bear bait stations.

Issued permits for 69 bear bait stations and analyzed distribution.

Unit 20E

Activity 1: Seal bears and analyze harvest data.

Sealed 11 black bears (73% male) and updated harvest tables.

Activity 2: Monitor and analyze black bear bait station permit distribution.

Did not administer any black bear bait station permits for Unit 20E during RY01.

Other activities funded by federal aid on this project:

Monitored blueberry abundance in Unit 20E along the Taylor Highway using 4 permanent transects (5 1-meter² plots/transect). This was the second year of monitoring. The intent is to monitor these plots annually and develop a blueberry abundance index to compare between years and between habitat types. These data will be used to determine if there is a relationship between berry abundance and quality and black bear harvest and DLP kills. Beginning in FY03, berry quality will be assessed by comparing sugar content between study areas and years.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): 23.1

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Management Coordinator

Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):

State Share = \$37.75 Federal Share = \$113.25 Total Costs = \$151