BLACK BEAR
SURVEY AND INVENTORY

STATE: Alaska   **GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.:** W-33-5

PROJECT NR.*:* 17.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007

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

Project Location: Statewide

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes black bear survey and inventory activities. Region-wide activities are listed before specific activities by game management unit.

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

Region-wide Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Provide information to state and federal regulatory processes on black bear management.

> Information on black bear harvest and management was supplied to state and federal regulatory bodies in response to proposals to change regulations within the region. This included three proposals to the State Board of Game.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

> ADF&G Wildlife Conservation staff as well as Fish and Wildlife Protection Troopers and designated sealing agents sealed black bears harvested in the region. Area biologists and other staff tracked harvest trends and collected biological samples whenever possible. Where appropriate, harvest was monitored to keep it within the guideline levels established by the Board.

ACTIVITY 3: Collect data related to sex, age, body condition, and harvest location from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

> 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. Approximately 840 black bears were sealed in Region I during the period.

ACTIVITY 4: Coordinate with community decision makers on local bear issues.

In Juneau, biologists communicate almost daily with Arrow Refuse and the Juneau Police Department staff, as well as other municipalities such as Haines and Skagway, in identifying areas of bear activity and determining what types of structures are most effective in thwarting foraging bears. Biologists continue to work with the city-appointed bear committee to provide radio and TV news releases about urban bears and refuse management

In Petersburg, the area staff worked with the local police department to coordinate responses to nuisance bear complaints within the community. In early 2007, a cooperative agreement between ADF&G and the Petersburg Police Department was renewed outlining specific courses of action to be taken by PPD officers and ADF&G area staff to provide timely, efficient, and safe responses to black bear concerns reported by members of the Petersburg public.

Activities by Unit

Unit 1C

ACTIVITY 1: Capture one or two black bears opportunistically and monitor their movements using GPS radio collars to identify problem areas and to assist educational efforts towards better refuse management.

Biologists captured 3 black bears and fitted them with GPS radio collars during this report period. These bears are the focus of a cooperative black bear educational outreach program by ADF&G, USFS, and the city of Juneau. School kids participated in the fitting of the collars and later the download of radio-telemetry locations thereby learning about the movement patterns and habitat use of these bears. The goal of this program is to provide department staff, students and members of the community of Juneau with a better understanding of where, when, how and why bears use certain areas in the community. With a better understanding of these questions, we can learn things that can help us the community to minimize conflicts with black bears in this urban setting. Also, we hope this program will generate a greater appreciation of black bears that will prompt residents to accept greater responsibility in keeping bears from becoming human food conditioned.

Unit 3

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the Kuiu Island nonresident harvest.

During the report period nonresident hunters harvested a total of 94 Kuiu Island black bears, including 20 during fall 2006 and 74 during spring 2007.

Submitted by: Dale L. Rabe, Region I Management Coordinator

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

Region-wide Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare a triennial black bear management report.

Unit 6: Black bear management report was not due during the reporting period.

ACTIVITY 2 & 3: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters. Collect data and determine the sex of black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

We received and summarized questionnaire surveys from 30 hunters in Unit 6D. The preliminary 2006/07 harvest per unit was:

Unit 6: 479 bears: 349 males (73%) - 130 females (27%)

Unit 7: 149 bears: 113 males (76%) - 36 females (24%)

Unit 11: 13 bears: 11 males (85%) - 2 females (15%)

Unit 13: 102 bears: 75 males (74%) - 27 females (26%)

Unit 14: 113 bears: 69 males - 44 females
    14A: 54 bears: 33 males, 21 females
    14B: 34 bears: 22 males - 12 females
    14C: 25 bears: 14 males – 11 females

Unit 15: 263 bears: 193 males (73%) - 70 females (27%)

Unit 16: 264 bears: 191 males – 73 females
    16A: 60 bears: 39 males – 21 females
    16B: 204 bears: 152 males – 52 females

Unit 17: 14 bears, 9 males - 5 females

Activities by Unit

Unit 6D

ACTIVITY 1: Extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Extracted teeth from 209 black bears harvested in Unit 6D. From these we will randomly select a sample of 25% for aging.

Submitted by: Gino DelFrate, Region II Management Coordinator

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

Region-wide Activities

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

> Monitored harvest of 345 black bears through field observation, sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters and analyzed this data.

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

> Monitored and analyzed distribution of permits in 75 bait stations.

ACTIVITY 3: Collect data, determine sex and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

> Collected data, determined sex and extracted a tooth for aging from 345 black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

ACTIVITY 4: Provide black bear management information to State and Federal regulatory processes.

> Provided information to 15 state advisory committees and 2 federal regional councils concerning black bear management.

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Region III Management Coordinator