

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
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ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-10

PROJECT NO.

PERIOD: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

PROJECT LOCATION: RI, RII, RIII, RIV, RV

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

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes Brown Bear survey and inventory activities. Activities are listed by game management unit.

Region I Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the harvest by using and analyzing data from sealing records, registration permits, and interviews with hunters.

Brown bear skulls were measured and the sex determined as bears were sealed. Region-wide, all hunters are required to register for brown bear hunting and submit reports by the end of the season detailing their hunting efforts. Preliminary figures indicate that about 186 bears were harvested in the region by hunters during the report period.

ACTIVITY 2: Collect data on sex, age, body condition, and harvest from bears presented for sealing by hunters.

As part of the sealing process information on harvest location, along with biological information on the bear was collected. A tooth was extracted from each bear for later aging of the animal. As part of ongoing mainland brown bear research efforts, staff across the region collected tissue samples from brown bears harvested anywhere on the mainland to be used for DNA analysis.

ACTIVITY 3: Collect data on bears killed in defense of life and property.

Area biologists worked with FWP troopers, municipal police officers, and private citizens to collect information on defense of life or property (DLP) kills.

Unit 1D: 2 DLP killed brown bears

Unit 4: 4 DLP killed brown bears

Unit 5: 4 DLP killed brown bears.

ACTIVITY 4: Coordinate with community decision makers to reduce bear/garbage problems that may be detrimental to bears.

Unit 1C and 1D: Biologists continue to work with local governments in Juneau, Haines and Skagway to decrease the number of complaints associated with bears and refuse. Similar to regulations implemented in Juneau and Skagway, the Haines Borough adopted an ordinance to address bear attraction nuisances. Department biologists assisted state and local entities in researching additional refuse control measures such as bear-proof garbage and recycling cans. Since the closure of the Haines Landfill, problem bear reports continue. Skagway is fortunate to have an incinerator and very few bear complaints.

Unit 4: Biologists continue to work with communities to provide bear education programs to reduce habituating bears to garbage. Efforts continue in Sitka to provide educational material and regular public service reminders via various media formats to supplement to efforts of Sitka's Bear Awareness work group of federal, state and community organizations.

Unit 5: Biologists met with members of the Yakutat city assembly, and landfill operators to address concerns with refuse management in Yakutat. Efforts focused on reconfiguring the landfill, and installing an electric fence to deter bears from accessing garbage.

ACTIVITY 5: Coordinate with land managers and guides regarding guided hunter effort.

Biologists continue to work with guides and land managers to identify high use guiding areas and to monitor guided-hunter brown bear harvest.

Activities by Unit

Unit 1D

ACTIVITY: Monitor brown bears deployed with GPS radio collars to assess habitat use and movements in the Chilkoot River corridor in Haines.

Area staff radio tracked the two brown bears along the Chilkoot River every few months.

Unit 4

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

One bear was captured and fitted with a radio collar during this report period.

ACTIVITY 2: Capture one or two brown bears at Pack Creek and monitor their movements using GPS radio collars.

One female bear was captured and fitted with a radio collar during this report period.

Activity 3: Collect tissue samples from brown bears harvested on Baranof Island to provide additional biological information.

Tissue was collected from all harvested bears from Baranof.

Activity 4: Capture one to six brown bears opportunistically and monitor their movements using GPS radio collars to identify use patterns, travel routes, and effectiveness in continuing efforts to utilize ECDs (electronic control devices) to mitigate bear-human food conditioning and habituation.

No progress was made in this activity.

Activity 5: Affix GPS radio collars to 4-5 brown bears at the Hoonah and Angoon landfills to better define their movement patterns in and around the community, and the public safety concerns this presents. Use this data to work with the community to address the bear attractive nature of the landfill.

No progress was made with this activity.

Unit 5:

Activity 1: Affix 4-5 brown bears at the Yakutat landfill with GPS radio collars to understand their movement patterns in and around the community, and the public safety concerns this presents.

In conjunction with ongoing brown bear research efforts in Unit 5, one bear was captured and fitted with a radio collar at the Yakutat landfill during this report period. Staff retrieved several collars from bears previously collared at the Yakutat landfill. Data from retrieved collars will be used in education programs, and in the data analysis for Unit 5 brown bears.

Submitted by: Neil L. Barten, Region I Management Coordinator

Region II Activities:

ACTIVITY : Draft a biennial brown bear management report.

Brown Bear management report was not due during this period. Staff continued to collect information in preparation for drafting next report.

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

These are standard activities accomplished in each office. See Area specific activities.

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

All bears taken in Region II were presented to staff for specimen collection and sealing. See area specific activities for additional information.

ACTIVITY : Obtain estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

For most bears taken in Region II a premolar was extracted and placed in a marked envelope. Teeth were bulk shipped to a contractor for aging and when available ages were provided to the Department to be entered into the bear harvest database.

ACTIVITY : Conduct line-transect/double count censuses of brown bear populations and refine technique.

No census work was completed during this reporting period. Staff worked on refining the technique and reanalyzing previous collected information.

Activities by Unit:

Unit 6

ACTIVITY 1: Sealed 24 female and 38 male bears for a total harvest of 62 bears.

ACTIVITY 2: Collected teeth from 60 bears for aging.

ACTIVITY 3: Conducted spring track and den surveys in Unit 6D on Hinchinbrook Island (150 linear mi.). Total flight time was 2.9 hours with 64 observations. Population index was stable on Hinchinbrook.

ACTIVITY 4: Brown Bear Management Report was not due this year.

Units 7 & 15

ACTIVITY 1: Continue implementation of the Kenai brown bear conservation strategy.

We continue to implement the conservation strategy with sustainable hunting opportunities and continued public education on bear conservation measures.

ACTIVITY 2: Capture up to 20 brown bear to collar or to replace existing collars.

Ten bears were captured (9 females, 1 male) and we deployed 9 radio collared during the report period.

ACTIVITY 3. Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

ACTIVITY 4. Collect harvest data, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Twenty-seven bears have been taken during the reporting period including twelve males, and fifteen females. This mortality includes four bears taken by legal hunting. Causes of mortality include defense-of-life-or-property kills, vehicle collisions, and illegal take.

Unit 8

ACTIVITY : Continue implementation of Unit 8 brown bear management plan. Implement the Kodiak Archipelago Bear Conservation and Management Plan with the Kodiak Unified Bear Subcommittee. The group successfully conducted a 3-day seminar (1 credit) on responsible bear viewing at Kodiak College. The course was filled to capacity and was well received.

We continued to make progress in our work with area villages to reduce the availability of human food and garbage to bears. The dumps at Larsen Bay and Port Lions continue to be successful and are well maintained by local villagers. Old Harbor completed fencing of their landfill, including electric fence that was retrofitted to an 8' chain-link fence, however, more improvements and maintenance will be necessary to make it secure from bears.

ACTIVITY: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters. We issued 751 hunting permits during this reporting period, 360 for the fall season and 391 in the spring. During the fall season, 238 hunters went afield and killed 87 bears. In the spring season 243 hunters went afield and killed 113 bears. The annual sport harvest was 200 bears, 140 males (70%) and 60 females (30%). Two additional bears (2 males) were killed in the federal brown bear subsistence hunt. There were 22 non-sport mortalities were documented as follows: defense of life or property - 4 (1 male, 3

females); natural/unknown - 13 (1 male, 1 female and 11 unknown sex); 1 illegal (1 female); and, 3 agency-kills (2 male, 1 female) and 1 vehicle kill (1 male).

The 2011/12 sport harvest of 200 bears was well above the minimum annual harvest objective of 150 bears. Males composed 70% of the harvest, well above the minimum objective of 60% males. Intensive aerial survey data suggest that the unit wide bear population continues to be stable to slightly increasing.

ACTIVITY: In cooperation with Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, annually survey a portion of the island to establish baseline bear density estimates and to detect changes in the population. We successfully completed an intensive aerial survey of the brown bear population in the Terror Lake area from 27 - 29 May 2011 (summary data attached). Survey data indicate that the bear density in this area has remained the same since the last survey was conducted in 1997. We estimated that the density of independent bears (not including cubs) in the Terror Lake area was 222/1,000 km² in 2011 (SE = 7.81). This estimate was not significantly different ($P > 0.05$) than those derived from surveys conducted in 1987 (228/1,000 km²; SE = 25.29) and in 1997 (273/1,000 km²; SE = 31.70), and it suggests the population is healthy and productive. Although we modified the survey boundaries slightly to improve efficiency, the methods used and conditions encountered during this year's survey were comparable to those in previous years.

From 05 through 09 June 2011, we assisted Kodiak NWR staff and used a Hughes 500D helicopter and rifle-fired darts to capture 13 brown bears (12 females and 1 male) in the Karluk Basin of Kodiak. We deployed GPS/VHF transmitters on all captured adult female bears. This project is primarily funded by the Kodiak NWR and it is designed to gain a more comprehensive understanding of bear movements and habitat use in the vicinity of Karluk Lake. While ADF&G is assisting in study design and capture operations, our financial investment is limited to minimal helicopter and spotter plane charters.

Unit 14C

ACTIVITY 1: Monitored brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters.

Number of females harvested: 2

Number of males harvested: 3

Brown bears killed in defense of life and property included an additional 2 females and 3 males. One male bear was killed by a vehicle.

ACTIVITY 2: Collected harvest data, determined the sex and extracted a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Submitted by: Gino Del Frate

Date: 2 September 2012

Region III Activities:

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

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Monitored preliminary harvest of 256 brown bears through field observations, sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters, and analyzed harvest data.

ACTIVITY 2: Collect harvest information and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Collected data, determined sex, and extracted a tooth for aging from 256 brown bears presented for sealing.

ACTIVITY 3: Obtain estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

Submitted teeth collected from 198 bears during the sealing process to a laboratory for aging.

ACTIVITY 4: Monitor and analyze brown bear bait station permit distribution.

Monitored and analyzed distribution of 23 bait stations in the McGrath area .

ACTIVITY 5: Provide brown bear management information to State and Federal regulatory processes.

Provided information to 15 State fish and game advisory committees and 2 Federal regional advisory councils.

ACTIVITY 6: Prepare brown bear management reports.

Prepared brown bear management reports.

Activities by Unit

Unit 12

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor blueberry abundance on permanent study plots to evaluate relationships between berry abundance and brown bear harvest

Monitored blueberry abundance within the Tanana River valley using 4 permanent transects (5 1-meter² plots/transect).

Unit 20E

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor blueberry abundance on permanent study plots to evaluate relationships between berry abundance and brown bear harvest

Monitored blueberry abundance along the southern 40 miles of the Taylor Highway using 4 permanent transects (5 1-meter² plots/transect).

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Management Coordinator

Region IV Activities:

PROJECT LOCATION: Game Management Units 9-11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 and 17

ACTIVITY: Prepare biennial brown bear management reports.

The next biennial brown bear management report is due to DWC – HQ on 15 May, 2012.

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

All brown bears harvested in Region IV were sealed, and successful hunters were interviewed by Department staff.

ACTIVITY 2: Collect harvest data, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

	Males	Females	Unknown	Total
<i>Unit 9:</i>	446	164	3	613
<i>Unit 10:</i>	7	2	0	9
<i>Unit 11:</i>	11	4	0	15
<i>Unit 13:</i>	69	45	1	115
<i>Unit 14A:</i>	5	5	0	10
<i>Unit 14B:</i>	7	9	0	15
<i>Unit 16:</i>	74	54	0	128
<i>Unit 17:</i>	107	63	1	171

ACTIVITY 3: Obtain estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

- Unit 9:* Preliminary fall average age = 8.0.
- Unit 10:* Preliminary fall average age = 7.4.
- Unit 11:* Preliminary fall average age = 6.1.
- Unit 13:* Preliminary fall average age = 6.3.
- Unit 14A:* Preliminary fall average age = 8.5.
- Unit 14B:* Preliminary fall average age = 6.0.
- Unit 16:* Preliminary fall average age = 6.3.
- Unit 17:* Preliminary fall average age = 7.3.

ACTIVITY 4: Conduct line-transect/double count censuses of brown bear populations and refine technique.

No brown bear census data was collected in FY12. Data previously collected is currently being analyzed.

Activities by Unit:

Unit 9:

ACTIVITY 1: Encourage residents to reduce bear attractants that lead to defense of life or property kills (DLP).

Residents calling in with bear issues were advised on the importance of proper stowage of attractants and on the use of electric fences. Worked with Defenders of Wildlife to install and train locals in the installation of electric fences in the village of Chignik Lake.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct population trend counts adjacent to heavily used salmon streams.

No surveys were conducted in FY12.

Unit 13:

ACTIVITY 1: Capture up to 45 brown bear to collar or to replace existing collars.

Twenty-three brown bears were collared this regulatory year. Additional information is reported in Nelchina Brown Bear AWP 4.41.

Unit 17:

ACTIVITY 1: Work with local home and recreational cabin owners to reduce bear attractants and defense of life or property kills.

Provided information to install electric fences at fish drying racks, animal pens, and food storage areas to deter damage by bears and reduce DLP kills. Worked with local public safety officials to deter damage by bears and reduce DLP kills.

Submitted by: Lem Butler, Region IV Management Coordinator

Date: 15 August, 2012

Region V Activities:

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

Area management staff reviewed State and Federal regulatory proposals, attended regulatory process meetings, and presented brown bear information to the State Board of Game, State Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Federal Subsistence Board, and Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

ACTIVITY 2: Review and revise population objectives.

Brown bear population objectives were reviewed with no revisions in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

ACTIVITY 3: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, analyses of brown bear sealing data, and interviews with hunters.

Unit 18: We made numerous field observations of brown bears while conducting surveys for other species in Unit 18; interviewed brown bear and other hunters regarding bears; and analyzed brown bear sealing data. To date, 31 brown bears have been reported harvested in the general hunt in Unit 18 for the fall of 2011 and 8 for the spring of 2012. Of these bears, 25 were male bears, 12 were female and 2 were unreported. Eighteen bears were harvested by nonresidents and 21 were by residents.

Unit 22: Harvest during the reporting period was 96 bears by hunting, 1 by Defense of Life and Property (DLP), and 1 for an unknown mortality for a total take of 98 bears. Alaska residents harvested 63 bears in the general hunt and 1 bear in the subsistence registration hunt, RB699; Non-residents harvested 8 bears in the two drawing hunts, DB685 and DB690, and 24 bears in the Unit 22A general hunt. Sex composition of the harvest was 60 males and 36 females. During the fall 2011 portion of the hunt season 46 bears were harvested and 50 bears were harvested during the spring 2012 hunt. The reported annual hunter harvest remained stable, similar to the previous year annual harvest of 94 bears, and the average annual harvest for the last 10-years is 93 bears per year (range 84-105 bears per year).

Unit 23: This year, 56 bears were harvested through the general hunt for residents, 3 in the registration hunt for residents, and 12 were harvested in the drawing hunt for non-residents. Therefore, 71 bears were harvested. The average annual harvest for the last 10-years is 51 bears per year (range 33-78 bears per year).

Unit 26A: We recorded brown bear harvest through field observations, interviewed hunters, and analyzed brown bear sealing data and subsistence harvest. Seventeen brown bears (14 males, 3 females) were reported taken in Unit 26A during the reporting period. Ten were reported taken by nonresidents, 6 by nonlocal Alaskan residents, and 1 by a resident of Unit 26A. Thirteen bears were taken during August and 4 were taken in September. The average annual harvest for the last 10 years is 15 bears per year.

ACTIVITY 4: Analyze registration permit harvest data collected for subsistence hunts.

Unit 18: No brown bears were reported taken under the subsistence brown bear registration hunt (RB698) in Unit 18 during this period. Two hunters obtained registration permits and reported their hunts.

Unit 22: The Department administered 3 subsistence brown bear registration permits, RB699, during the reporting period. One male brown bear was harvested during the fall season.

Unit 23: Three brown bears were reported taken under the subsistence brown bear registration hunt (RB700) in Unit 23 during this period. All were taken in the Fall. Two of the harvested bears were males and 1 was female.

Unit 26A: Five brown bears were reported taken in September under the subsistence brown bear registration hunt (RB697) in Unit 26A during this period. Four were males and 1 was a female.

ACTIVITY 5: Use public education programs and/or increased communication with the public to improve understanding of hunting regulations and the value of conserving brown bear populations, and to obtain better harvest data through increased harvest reporting.

Unit 18: We addressed bear conservation education in Unit 18 through opportunistic interviews with hunters, village police officers, berry pickers, and other interested members of the public.

Unit 22: The Department discussed brown bear hunting regulations, the importance of reporting bears taken during harvest or in a Defense of Life & Property situation, and methods to minimize human-bear conflicts during Advisory Committee meetings, Regional Advisory Council meetings, local newspaper, and with individual local residents. Staff participated in brown bear awareness and education with local youth groups.

Unit 23: We spoke to the public about the importance of reporting all bears killed while hunting or in defense of life and property.

Unit 26A: At public meetings and during individual contacts with local residents, we discussed bear hunting regulations, the importance of reporting harvest and DLP bears, and methods to minimize human-bear conflicts.

ACTIVITY 6: Collect data, determine sex, and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing.

Unit 18: Data were collected from 39 sealed bears (25 males and 12 females and 2 unrecorded). Teeth were extracted for aging when these bears were presented for sealing.

Unit 22: Data were collected from 92 sealed bears (57 males, 35 females). Upper premolar teeth were extracted for aging when these bears were presented for sealing.

Unit 23: Data were collected from 68 sealed bears. Teeth were extracted for aging when these bears were presented for sealing.

Unit 26A: Data were collected from 17 sealed bears (14 males and 3 females). Teeth were extracted for aging when these bears were presented for sealing.

ACTIVITY 7: Obtain estimates of ages of sealed bears by tooth sectioning.

Unit 18: Premolars were extracted and sent to Matson’s Lab for sectioning and aging but results for these samples are not available. The average age of bears from the 2010-2011 regulatory year is 5.0 for females and 8.3 for males.

Unit 22: Premolars were extracted and sent to Matson’s Lab for sectioning and aging but results for the 2011-2012 period are not available. The average age of bears harvested in Unit 22 from 2002-2003 through 2010-2011 for males was 6.4 years and 6.5 years for females.

Unit 23: Twenty-six percent of the sealed bears have not been aged yet. The average age for the 50 sealed bears that have been aged is 6 years. The average age of all bears taken in Unit 23 From RY2001 through RY2010 was 8 yrs for males and females combined as well as considered for each sex separately.

Unit 26A: Teeth were sent for aging but results for the 2010-2011 period are not available. The average age from 2000-2001 through 2010-2011 was 11 yrs for males and 8 yrs for females).

ACTIVITY 8: Communicate and coordinate with local residents to reduce bear/human problems, improve understanding of defense of life or property (DLP) situations, and reduce need for DLP kills.

Unit 18: We continued to promote the use of electric fences around fish camps, hunting camps, and other applications as a way to reduce bear problems. Few bear problems were reported and one DLP bears was reported taken in 2011–2012.

Unit 22: Reports of problem bears and DLPs continue throughout the unit. We promote the use of electric fences around camps, clean areas around camp, and work with rural communities to have nuisance bears reported to the Department. We work with village public safety officers and communities on DLP reporting and salvaging requirements. Bear safety is given to local youth summer groups, and discussed with locals and visitors who are heading out in bear country. Copies of the bear safety video, “Staying Safe in Bear Country” and the pamphlet “Bear Facts – The Essentials for Traveling in Bear Country” are available from the Nome Fish & Game office.

Unit 23: We spoke to numerous hunters, especially hunters who reside outside of Unit 23 who call for information, about bear safety. We also spoke with local residents about preventing DLP situations and the need to report bears taken under such circumstances.

Unit 26A: The number of brown bears breaking into cabins and entering villages has increased in recent years. Efforts are being made to improve knowledge of DLP regulations and expand the use of registration permits for subsistence hunting of bears. Tag fees were eliminated for the general season hunt, which will make it easier for residents to protect their property. We are promoting the use of electric fences for people with remote cabins and bought and installed a fence to use as a demonstration.

Activities by Unit:

Unit 22

ACTIVITY 1: Assess population trends through field observations and analyses of sealing data.

Annual reported harvest of male bears has consistently exceeded the female harvest, with male bears being approximately 62% of the harvest from 1990-1991 to 2011-2012. Historical harvest data show low harvest of females and little change in mean age of harvested bears suggesting little deviation in sex or age structure of the Unit 22 bear population. Since 1997, in the most heavily hunted and accessible areas (Units 22B west of the Darby Mountains, 22C, and 22D), staff have received fewer complaints about problem bears, suggesting bear numbers may have stabilized. However, anecdotal evidence from the public that indicates the population is highly productive. Reports of sows with twins are normal, sows with three cubs are common and sows with 4 cubs are occasionally reported.

ACTIVITY 2: Analyze harvest data collected from selected communities in Unit 22.

No community-based harvest surveys were conducted during this reporting period. Harvest assessment surveys conducted in the communities of Wales, Koyuk, Golovin and Elim in Unit 22 during the 2010-2011 reporting period show harvest of brown bears are low by community residents but there are a few individuals who will use brown bear as a resource.

Units 18, 23 and 26A:

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor population trends through field observations, censuses, registration permit hunt reports, and analysis of sealing data.

Unit 18: Brown bears are observed opportunistically while surveying moose and caribou in the unit. General season hunter harvests are higher compared to the previous decade, especially in the Kilbuck Mountains, but subsistence harvests are much lower. The Yukon River drainage in Unit 18 has seen very little harvest for many years and no bears were reported harvested from this area during the reporting period. From hunt reports and our observations we do not think that bears are being over-harvested.

Unit 23: Harvest data indicates there has been little change in the sex or age structure of bear populations in Unit 23 since the early 1960s despite increasing harvest levels. This is consistent with our opportunistic observations of bears. However, modeling exercises indicate harvest data is insensitive to biological changes in bear populations so these results should be viewed with caution.

Unit 26A: Opportunistic observation of brown bears during surveys for other species and the observations of hunters and pilots indicate that brown bears are relatively plentiful, and most users indicate the current population level of brown bears is satisfactory. A 3-year bear survey flown in 2000, 2001, and 2003 in a 20,000 km² area in Unit 26B and eastern Unit 26A resulted in a density estimate of 18.3 bears/1000 km². We saw 7 bears during 5.4 hours in our moose trend count census in April 2012. The analysis of sealing data indicate that the proportion of males and the age structure of harvest in Unit 26A is healthy and suitable for maintaining the current population level of brown bears in Unit 26A.

ACTIVITY 2: Analyze harvest data collected from selected communities in Units 23 and 26A.

Unit 23: Community harvest assessments were conducted in the community of Selawik in Unit 23 during the reporting period. Results will be summarized in a report prepared by Division of Subsistence later this year. Previous community harvest assessments

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suggest the harvest of brown bears by residents of Unit 23 is low but accounts for more than sealing records indicate.

Unit 26A: We estimated local harvest by using data from ADF&G Subsistence Division, the North Slope Borough and other community-based harvest assessment studies. We determined that the mean number of bears harvested in Unit 26A villages per year ranges from 6–12 bears annually.

ACTIVITY 4: Continue cooperative efforts with NPS to develop non-MKR (mark-recapture) census techniques in selected portions of Unit 23 during late May/early June survey periods.

No new surveys or census efforts were attempted or completed during the reporting period. Final results of the May/June 2008 census in the Noatak River drainage near Red Dog Mine (surveys by National Park Service in conjunction with ADF&G) were not available; analysis is on-going.

Submitted by: Peter Bente, Survey and Inventory Coordinator, Region V

Date: 1 September 2012