

# BLACK BEAR BAITING IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

By Jeff Hughes and Michael McDonald



Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation

February, 1994

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation  
February 1994**

# **Black Bear Baiting in Southcentral Alaska**

**Jeff Hughes  
Michael McDonald**

If using information from this report, please credit author(s) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**STATE OF ALASKA**

Walter J. Hickel, Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

Carl L. Rosier, Commissioner

**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**

David G. Kelleyhouse, Director

Wayne L. Regelin, Deputy Director

Persons intending to cite this material should obtain permission from the author(s) and/or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Because most reports deal with preliminary results of continuing studies, conclusions are tentative and should be identified as such. Due credit will be appreciated.

Additional copies of this report may be obtained from:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Wildlife Conservation  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducts all programs and activities free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. For information on alternative formats for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-4120, (TDD) 1-800-478-3648, or FAX 907- 586-6595. Any person who believes she/he has been discriminated against should write to: ADF&G, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526 or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the interior, Washington, DC 20240.

**INTRODUCTION: WHY DO ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME  
BIOLOGISTS WANT TO KNOW ABOUT BEAR BAITING?**

Given the increasing popularity of hunting black bears over bait in southcentral Alaska, we need to know more about this activity and hunters who participate in it. Over the past five years, the number of hunters registering bait stations increased from 324 in 1989, to 556 during the spring of 1993 (Figure 1). However, during this same time period, the number of black bears harvested over bait did not increase. Hunters harvested an average of 102 bears per year in each of the past five years according to black bear sealing records; harvest ranged from a low of 87 bears in 1990, to 118 bears in 1991.

**HOW DID WE GATHER THE INFORMATION?**

During the spring of 1993, biologists at the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) designed a questionnaire to provide a profile of individuals who hunt black bears over bait. We also included data from black bear sealing records in the analysis. The objective was to improve our understanding of the nature and magnitude of bear baiting in southcentral Alaska.

The survey was initiated and coordinated by Anchorage regional office staff with assistance from the Palmer and Kenai Peninsula area biologists. Our original intention was to have successful bear baiters complete a questionnaire during sealing of the hide. Later, we decided to mail a

The number of bear baiters has increased during the past 5 years; however the number of black bears harvested over bait has remained about the same.

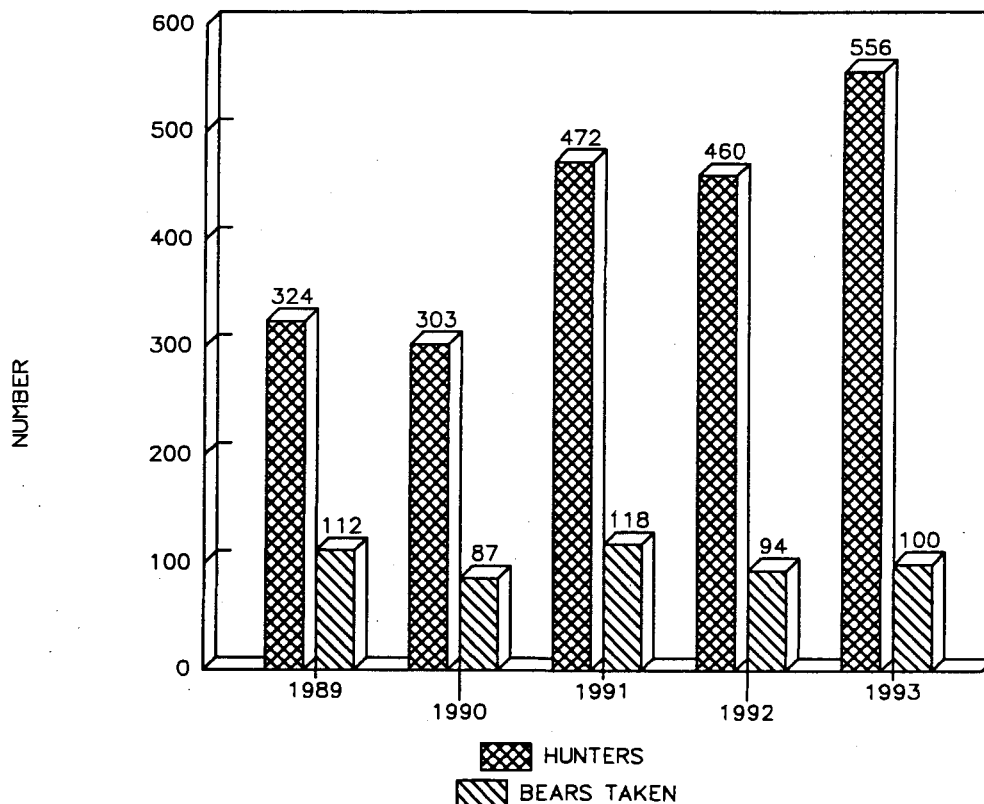


Figure 1. The number of baiters and black bears taken over bait in southcentral Alaska, 1989-93.

questionnaire to all individuals that registered a bait station, excluding the successful hunters we had already surveyed during sealing. Packets, including a letter, questionnaire (Appendix 1) and a stamped envelope, were mailed in September to 533 individuals with a Southcentral zip code who registered a bait station in 1993. Thirty (6%) packets were returned as undeliverable; the individual had moved and not provided a forwarding address.

In late November, a low response rate (12%) prompted us to send a reminder letter. The questionnaires that had been returned were anonymous. Therefore, we sent reminder letters to everyone on the original mailing list because we were unable to determine who had responded.

The response rate improved considerably following the reminder letter. We received 329 completed questionnaires by the end of January, a 65% response rate. Although individuals did not always answer every question, the following results are based upon the responses we received.

#### **RESULTS: WHO ARE BEAR BAITERS?**

*(Statements in this report which are preceded by an asterisk*

*(\*) indicate statistical significance when  $\alpha=0.05$ .)*

The individuals that responded to our survey were almost exclusively men; only six women returned questionnaires. The

average bear baiter was 37-years-old (Figure 2) and had been a resident of Alaska for nearly 13 years. The youngest individual who returned a survey was 16 and the oldest was 73-years-old. The survey results also indicated, \*bear baiters appear to be younger than the southcentral Alaska hunters questioned previously by ADF&G during an economic survey (Miller S. M. and D. W. McCollum;

The average bear baiter was 37-years-old and had been a resident for nearly 13 years.

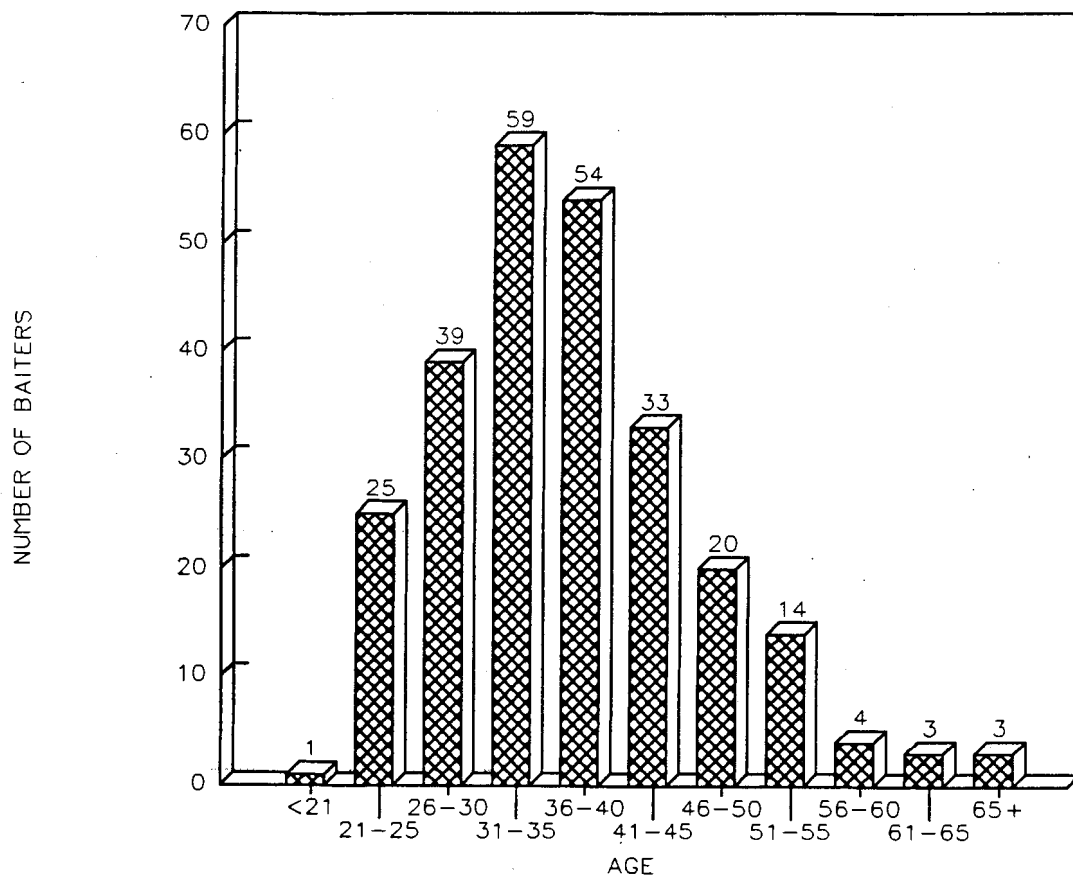


Figure 2. Ages of southcentral Alaska bear baiters. ( $n=255$ )

Alaska Voters: Their Characteristics and Attitudes Towards Wildlife. In Press.).

#### **BEAR HUNTING EXPERIENCE**

Experience is difficult to measure because it is an intangible concept. The amount of time an individual has participated in the activity (years hunted), and their success (bears harvested) are two components of experience we selected to quantify with our questionnaire. We also compared bow hunters with hunters using firearms to test the hypothesis that archers, as a group, are more experienced hunters.

We made a distinction between bear hunting and bear baiting experience. Bear hunting experience was limited to the amount of time a person hunted specifically for black or brown bears, but included any method of hunting and experience acquired in other states.

Southcentral Alaska bear baiters averaged more than six years of bear hunting experience (Figure 3). Baiters who hunted with a bow and arrows averaged 7.5 years of bear hunting experience. \*Bow hunters who baited, on average, have hunted bears for more years than bear baiters that used firearms.



The hunters who registered bait stations in 1993 previously had harvested an average of 1.7 black bears in Alaska. Even bear hunters who were baiting bears for the first time last spring, previously had taken an average of 1.1 black bears in the state. \*Bow hunters differed from other bear hunters in that they had harvested more black bears than hunters using firearms.

All bear baiters averaged 6.4 years of bear hunting experience; those using rifles averaged 5.8 years of experience; bow hunters averaged 7.5 years of experience.

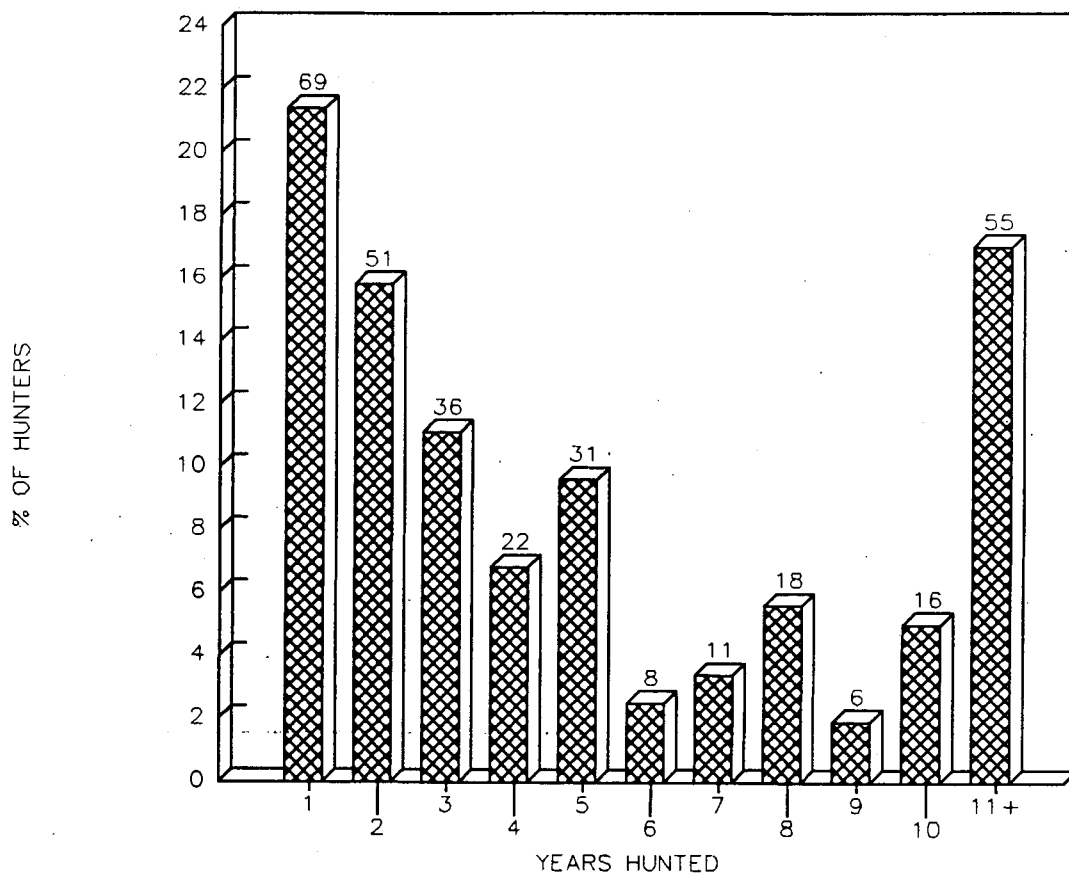


Figure 3. The number of years bear baiters have hunted bears (by any method). ( $n=323$ )

## BLACK BEAR BAITING EXPERIENCE

All bear baiters averaged 2.6 years of baiting experience while those baiters hunting with a bow averaged 3.1 years of baiting experience. \*Bow hunters, on average, have hunted over bait more years than hunters using firearms.

A total of 89% of the people who registered bait stations actually hunted black bears over bait during the spring of 1993. Forty-four percent of the bear baiters who went afield were "rookies" during the spring of 1993 (Figure 4). For 24% of the baiters it was their second time, and 10% were baiting for the third season.

Averages can be confusing; 44% of the baiters were "rookies", but all baiters averaged 2.6 years of experience hunting over bait. If nearly one-half (44%) of the bear baiters were inexperienced (zero years), then the other one-half averaged over 5 years of experience! Although all baiters averaged 2.6 years of experience, hunters had differing baiting experience.

Nearly 73% of the individuals who baited bears during the spring of 1993 previously had not killed a black bear over bait in Alaska. A total of 27% of the baiters previously had harvested an average of 2.3 black bears over bait in

Alaska. Twenty-three percent of the 294 respondents who went afield harvested their first bear over bait this past spring, accounting for 58% of the harvest taken by baiters in 1993.

All baiters averaged 2.6 years of baiting experience in Alaska, however the majority were baiting for their first or second time in 1993. \* Archers have hunted over bait more years than hunters using firearms.

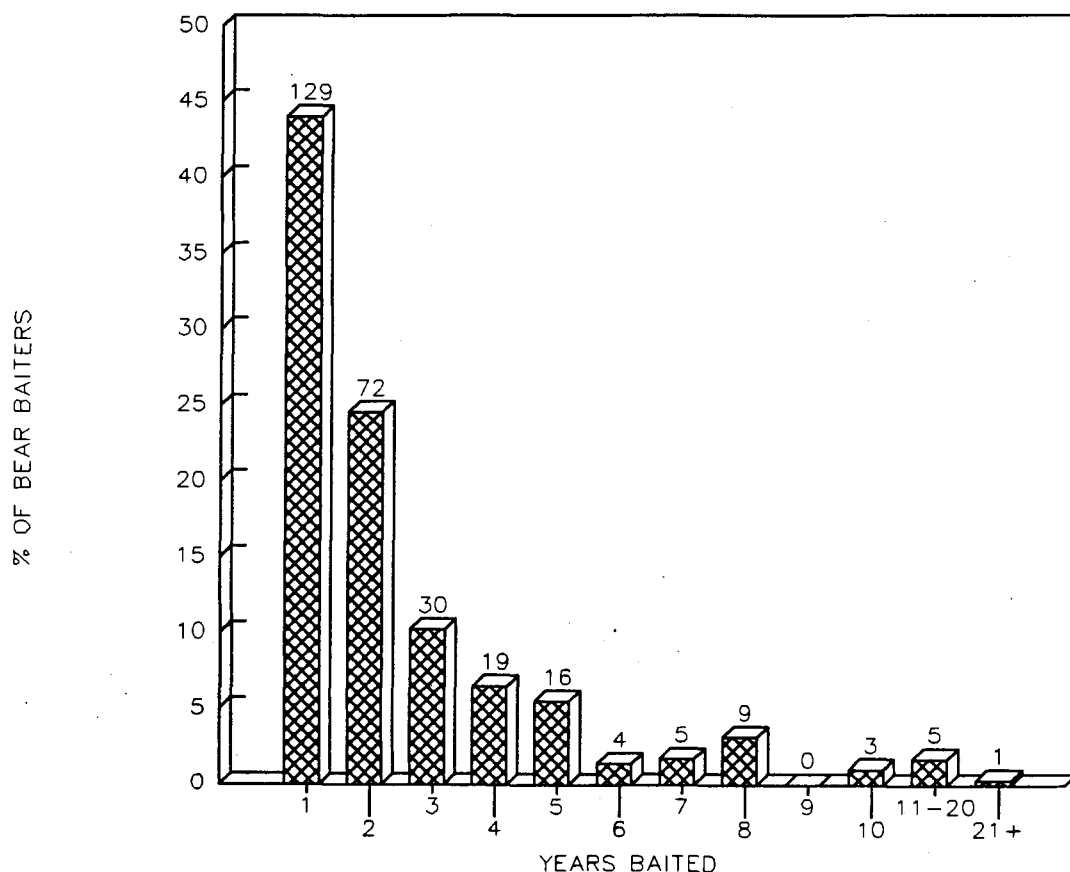


Figure 4. Years bear baiters have baited bears. ( $n=293$ )

\*Successful bear baiters had hunted more years over bait than unsuccessful baiters. Bear baiters successful in 1993

had hunted bears over bait for an average of 3.1 years, while hunters who were unsuccessful over bait this past spring averaged 2.2 years of bear baiting experience.

#### **BAITING SITES AND HARVEST OBJECTIVES**

Almost 66% of the baiters listed "good bear habitat" as the most important criterion in selecting their bait sites.

"Easy access" and "close to home" were the most important considerations for the remainder of (34%) the bear baiters.

In 1993, 36% of the baiters returned to baiting sites they had used previously and 47% of these hunters previously had killed a black bear at this baiting site. Bear hunters reused bait stations an average of 2.8 seasons.

A trophy, that is, a nice hide or large animal, was the primary harvest goal of 43% of the hunters who baited bears in 1993 (Figure 5). More than 30% of baiters listed "meat" as their objective, followed by 22% who reported "first bear" as their objective, and 5% who had "other" objectives.

#### **POPULAR BAITS AND WHEN BAIT IS PLACED IN THE FIELD**

Bear baiters use a variety of food items including flavorings such as anise oil, honey, and syrup to attract bears. Doughnuts, bread, used fryer grease, beef suet,

meat, fish, and dog food were the most commonly reported baits. One unsuccessful hunter, unwilling to reveal his bait to ADF&G, reported using "secret-bait".

A trophy, that is, a nice hide or large animal, was the primary harvest goal of 43% of bear baiters.

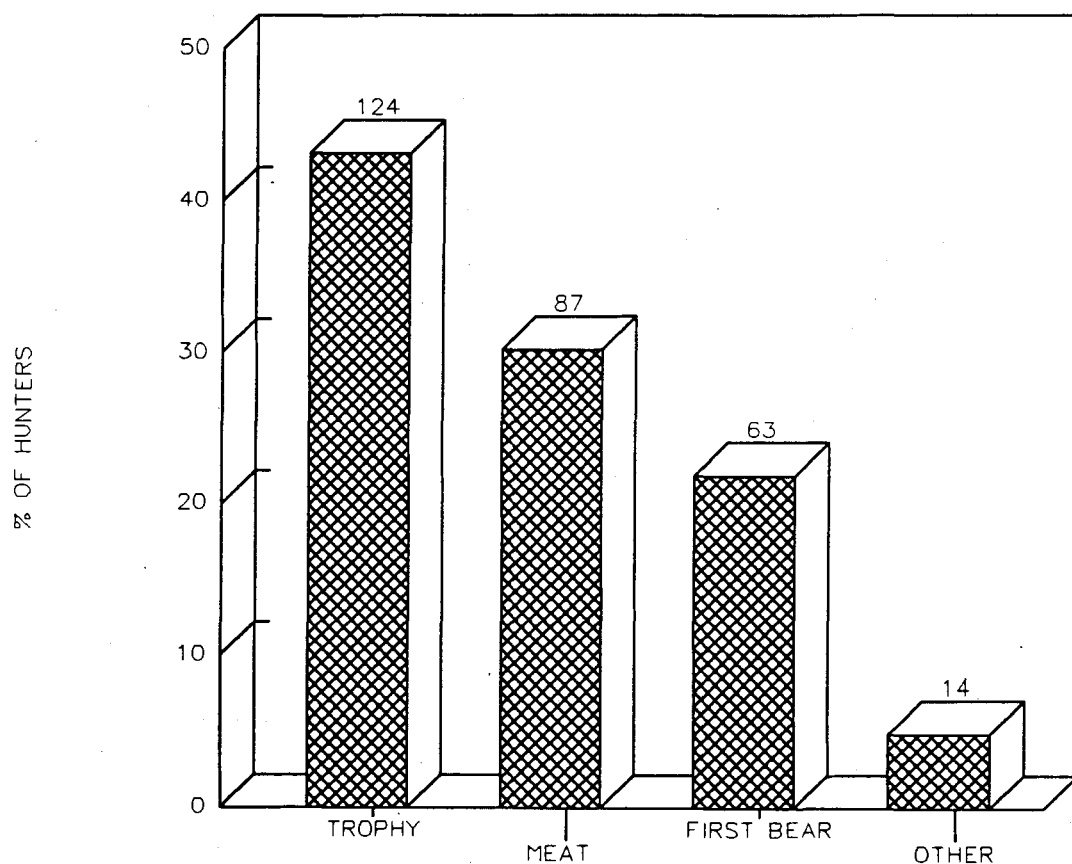


Figure 5. The primary goals of bear baiters in southcentral Alaska. ( $n=288$ )

The date hunters initially placed bait in the field (prebaiting) varied (Figure 6). Hunters began baiting their sites in April (38%), reached a peak in May (55%), and continued to a lesser extent into June (6%). Individuals were required to register their bait stations prior to placing bait in the field.

#### **BEARS OBSERVED AT BAIT**

More than 57% of the individuals who hunted over bait observed bears. Hunters who harvested a bear during the spring of 1993 observed an average of 3.0 adult black bears, and 0.7 cubs at their bait stations. Unsuccessful hunters averaged 0.8 adult black bear and 0.2 cub observations at their baiting sites.

It was not surprising to find that as the number of black bears previously harvested by a hunter increased, the average number of adult black bears observed at baiting sites increased. Experienced bear baiters predictably observed more bears. Hunters who had taken one black bear prior to the 1993 baiting season saw 1.5 adult black bears; hunters who previously had killed two bears observed 2.2 bears; hunters who previously had harvested three bears observed 2.1 adult bears; hunters who had killed four

Baiting begins in April, and reaches its peak in May.

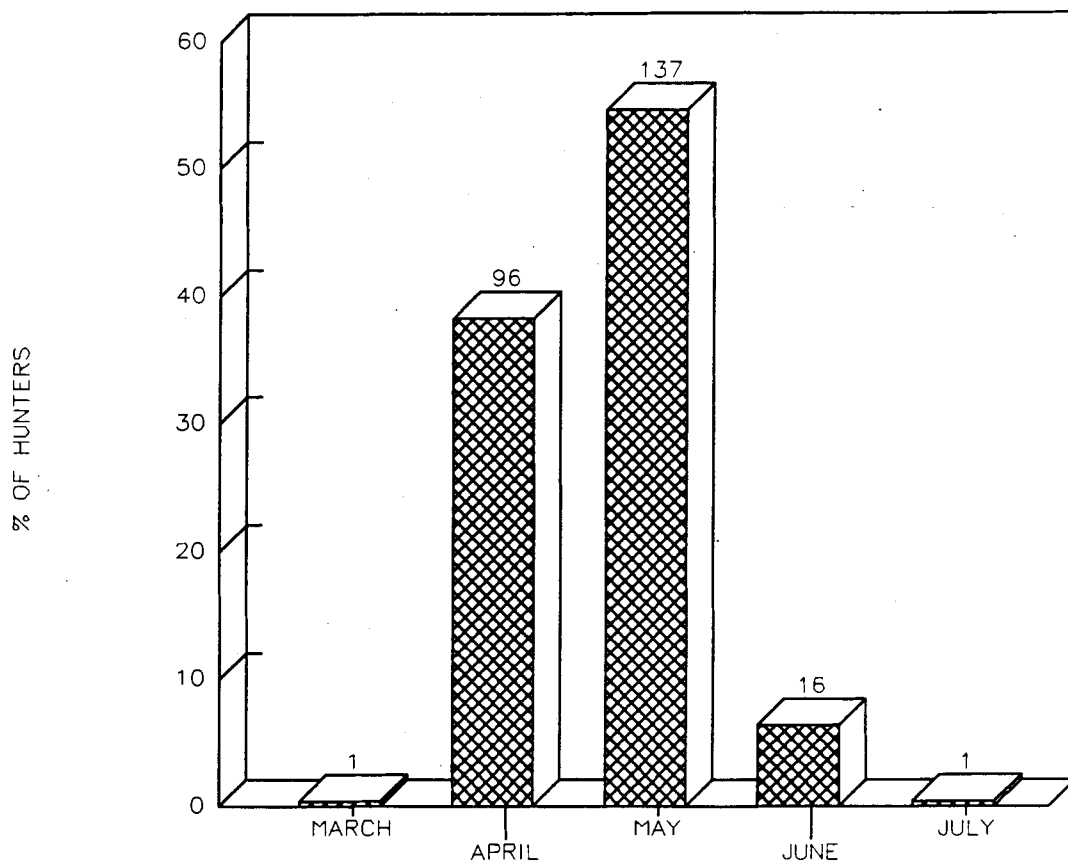


Figure 6. The months hunters initially placed bait in the field. ( $n=251$ )

bears previously, observed 2.9 adult black bears; and those who had taken five bears prior to last spring, observed 3.6 adult bears at their bait stations.

It was surprising to learn that bear baiters who successfully killed their first black bear (by any method)

last spring, observed an average of 2.9 adult black bears at their bait stations. These "first-timers" observed as many adult bears as experienced baiters, and apparently were not killing the first bear they observed.

Brown bears also were attracted to bait but it is illegal to kill brown bears at baiting sites. Successful black bear baiters observed 0.3 adult brown bears and 0.2 cubs, compared to hunters that did not take a black bear, who saw 0.2 adult brown bears and less than 0.1 brown bear cubs.

#### **METHODS OF TAKING BEARS AND SUCCESS RATES**

A total of 214 respondents reported the type of weapon they carried while hunting bears over bait. Fifty percent of the baiters used a rifle while almost 47% were archers. Four hunters reported they were armed with handguns; two indicated they used shotguns and one hunter used a muzzleloader (Figure 7).

We heard from 119 successful hunters who harvested a black bear over bait in 1993. A total of 58 (49%) of the successful hunters used a rifle while 56 (47%) took their bears with a bow (Figure 8). Three (3%) baiters killed bears with handguns, while one (less than 1%) used a shotgun and another used a muzzleloader to kill a bear.



The success rate for muzzleloaders was 100% (1/1); among handgunners it was 75% (3/4); among baiters who used rifles 52% (58/107); among archers 56% (56/100); and among hunters using shotguns 50% (1/2). These success rates should be interpreted cautiously because only 65% of the hunters that responded listed the type of weapon they used for hunting.

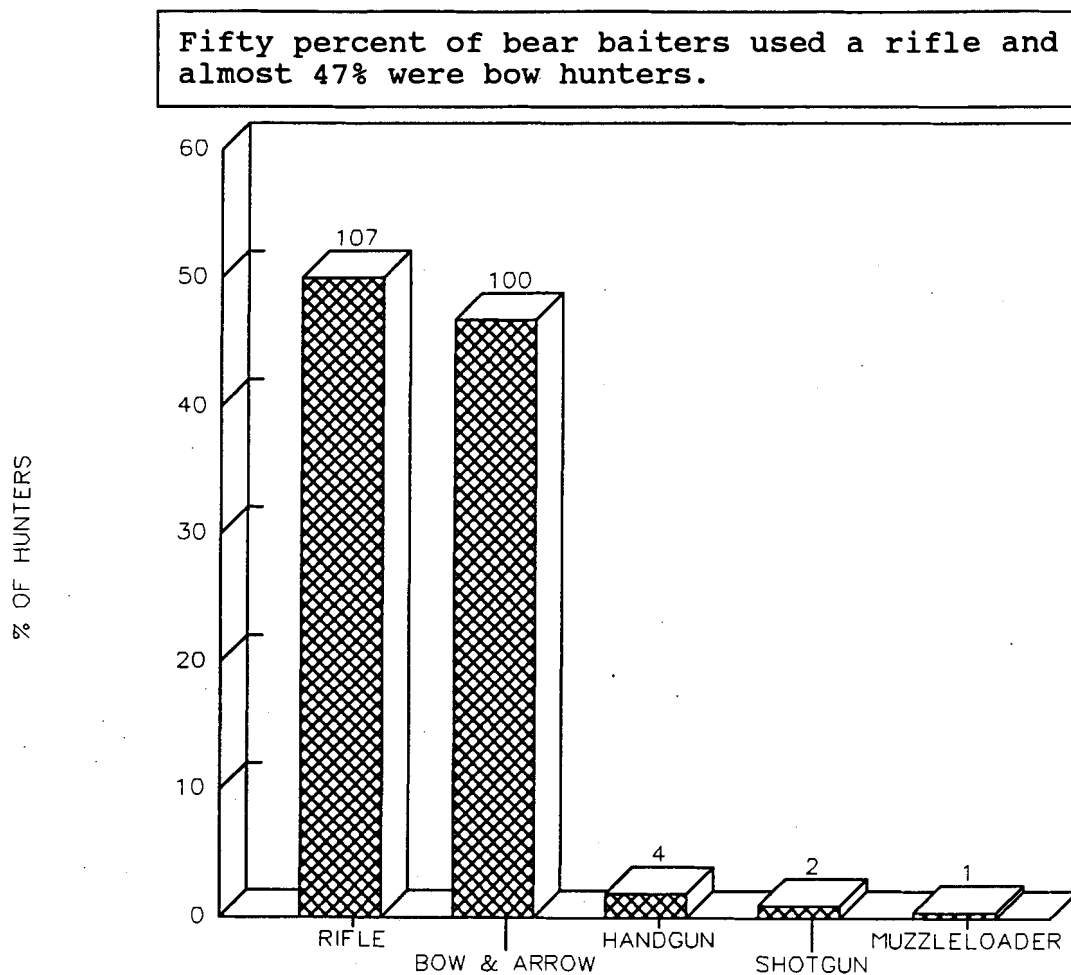


Figure 7. The methods southcentral Alaska bear baiters used for hunting bears. ( $n=214$ )

The success rate for all bear baiters was 40%. Those hunting over bait for the first time last spring harvested 37 bears, a "rookie" success rate of 29%. Second-season baiters accounted for 27 bears, a success rate of 38%. Hunters baiting for the third time killed 20 black bears and had the highest success rate, 67%. Hunters baiting for the fourth time harvested 10 bears, a success rate of 53%;

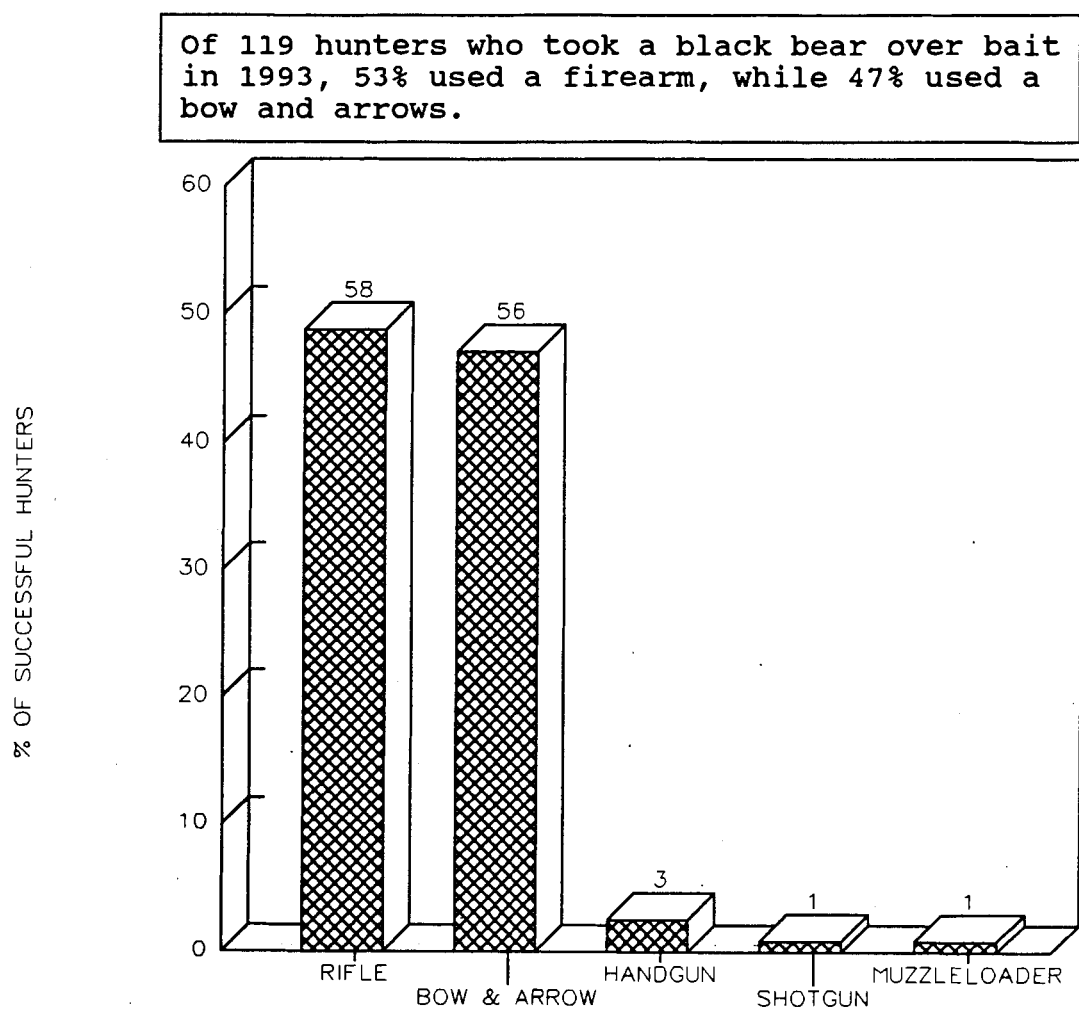


Figure 8. Methods used by successful baiters to harvest black bears in southcentral, Alaska. ( $n=119$ )

baiters who had five or more years experience harvested 25 bears, a success rate of 58%.

#### **OTHER ASPECTS OF HARVESTING BEARS OVER BAIT**

We asked bear baiters if they hunted from a stand or on the ground; and if they usually hunted in the morning, evening, or anytime. Over 73% of baiters hunted from a stand and over 55% hunted primarily in the evening.

Hunters who harvested a bear over bait spent more days hunting than those hunters who did not take a bear. Successful bear baiters spent an average of 8.4 days afield. Unsuccessful baiters averaged 6.5 days of hunting. Time was recorded in whole days, that is, if a person hunted for only a few hours during a day, they reported one day of hunting.

\*Of successful bear baiters, bow hunters were able to determine the sex of black bears better than hunters using firearms. Forty-eight percent of the successful archers and 17% of the successful hunters using firearms indicated they were able to sex the bear prior to taking it over bait. Thirty-two percent of the 119 successful bear baiters indicated they were able to sex the bear prior to killing it. Seventy-one percent of the individuals that indicated

they were able to determine the sex of the bear before harvesting it, were archers.

When asked how they were able to determine the sex of a bear, hunters checked "body size" most often, followed closely by "head conformation". A few respondents indicated they "observed genitals".

\*Bow hunters, on average, shot their bears at shorter distances than hunters using firearms. Archers averaged 15 yards from the bear at first shot while hunters using firearms averaged 53 yards from the bear at first shot.

#### **HOW MANY PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN BEAR BAITING?**

We estimate 910 hunters spent nearly 3,400 person-days hunting black bears over bait in Southcentral during 1993. We base this on a 65% response rate to our questionnaire. Tallying only the 329 returned surveys, 595 individuals hunted black bears over bait in the spring of 1993. The breakdown was 519 men, 30 women, and 46 children (age 16 or less). Hunters spent 915 days scouting for baiting sites, worked 2,966 days collecting bait and spent 1,472 days prebaiting sites (Figure 9). Respondents reported spending 2,222 days hunting at bait stations, and also logged a total of 70 days photographing bears at bait stations.

Lacking data on individual participation in black bear hunting, we examined individual participation in other hunting activities in southcentral Alaska to rank the importance of bear baiting. In 1992, 413 hunters spent 1,794 days hunting elk in Game Management Unit 8, and

Based on a 65% response rate, we estimate over 900 hunters spent nearly 3,400 person-days hunting black bears over bait in southcentral Alaska in 1993.

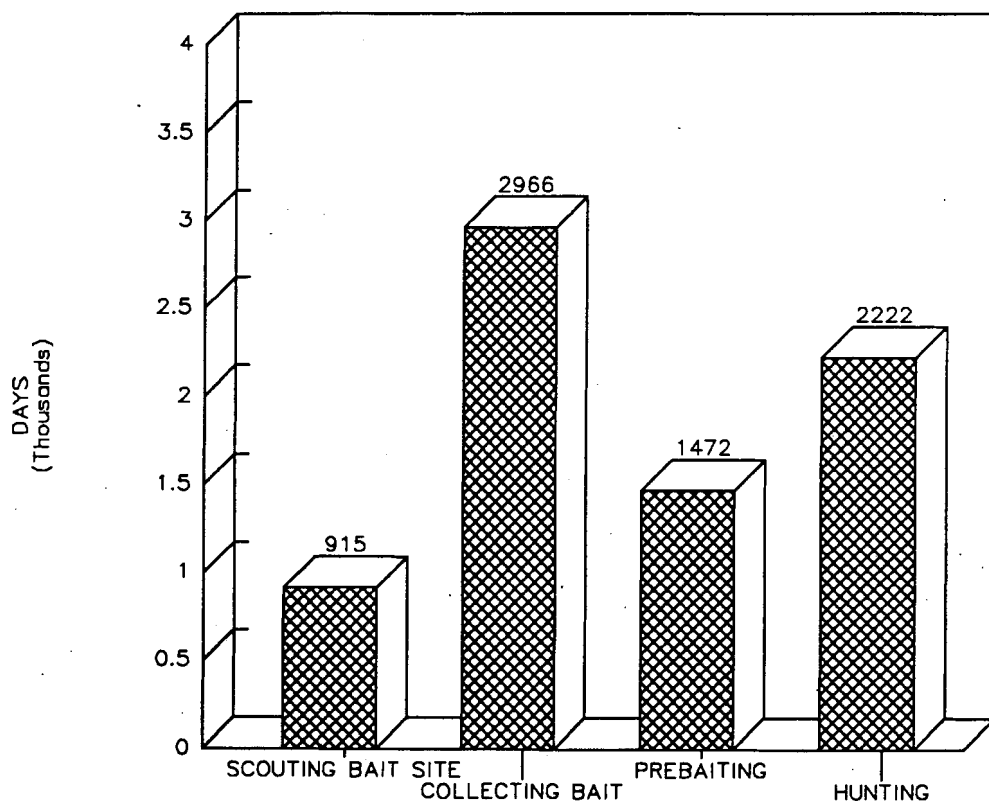


Figure 9. The number of days individual were involved in bear baiting activities.

833 hunters spent an estimated 2,880 days hunting mountain goats throughout southcentral Alaska. Moose hunting, however, was unsurpassed in popularity; in 1992 (most recent data available), in the most popular moose hunting area, Game Management Unit 14, 4,754 individuals hunted 26,196 days.

#### **SPRING BLACK BEAR HARVESTS IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA**

Black bear sealing records provided information on sex composition and sizes of spring harvest. Hunters harvested an average of 460 black bears in southcentral Alaska (Units 6, 7, 15, 16, 11, 13, and Subunits 14A and 14B) each spring during the past five years, 1989-93, (Table 1). Bear baiters accounted for an average of 104 bears, or about 23% of the spring harvest each year during this time period.

Table 1. Spring black bear harvest in southcentral Alaska (excluding Units 8, 9, 10, 17, and Subunit 14C), 1989-93.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Taken over Bait</u>	<u>% Taken over Bait</u>
1989	416	112	27
1990	410	87	21
1991	535	116	22
1992	493	104	21
1993	447	100	22
Average	460	104	23

Unit 6, Prince William Sound, had the highest spring black bear harvest in Southcentral. Hunters killed an average of

192 animals each spring during the past five years (Table 2). However, baiting only accounted for an average of 3% of the harvest (7 bears/year) during this time. Bear baiting is not an important harvest method in Unit 6. Baiting was limited in this area by poor access and numerous opportunities to take a bear by other methods.

---

Table 2. Spring black bear harvest in Unit 6, 1989-93.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Taken over Bait</u>	<u>% Taken over Bait</u>
1989	145	0	0
1990	185	7	4
1991	231	8	3
1992	191	4	2
1993	206	16	8

---

Units 7 and 15, the Kenai Peninsula, also have high spring bear harvests, although less than Unit 6. Hunters have taken an average of 124 bears each spring during the past five years, with an average of 27% (33 bears/year) of the harvests occurring over bait (Table 3). The Kenai Peninsula is easily accessible for the largest number of black bear hunters in the state. Black bears occur in forest stands and in low or open-canopy habitat types, affording opportunities to take bears by different methods.

Unit 16 and Subunits 14A and 14B, the Matanuska and Susitna valleys, are important black bear hunting areas although not as popular as Prince William Sound or the Kenai Peninsula.

Table 3. Spring black bear harvest in Units 7 and 15, 1989-93.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Taken over Bait</u>	<u>% Taken over Bait</u>
1989	100	36	36
1990	99	25	25
1991	145	38	26
1992	149	39	26
1993	126	28	22

In Unit 16, hunters have harvested an average of 68 bears each spring during the past five years and baiting has accounted for 49% (33 bears/year) of the harvests during this time (Table 4).

Table 4. Spring black bear harvests in Unit 16, 1989-93.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Taken over Bait</u>	<u>% Taken over Bait</u>
1989	75	28	37
1990	44	22	50
1991	72	43	60
1992	87	41	46
1993	62	32	52

In Subunits 14A and 14B, hunters have taken an average of 45 bears each spring over the past five years and an average of 53% (24 bears/year) of these harvests occurred over bait (Table 5). While black bear harvests are lower in the Matanuska and Susitna valleys, bear baiting accounts for a much higher percentage of the harvest and baiting is an



important harvest method in these units. The importance of baiting may be explained by good access to much of the area, continuous deciduous forest cover, and few opportunities to take black bears by other methods.

---

Table 5. Spring black bear harvests in Subunits 14A and 14B, 1989-93.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Taken over Bait</u>	<u>% Taken over Bait</u>
1989	67	41	61
1990	54	28	52
1991	36	20	56
1992	36	15	42
1993	30	18	60

---

In Units 11 and 13, hunters have harvested an average of 32 bears each spring for the past five years, and baiters have accounted for an average of 20% (6 bears/year) of the bear harvest during this time (Table 6). Black bear densities are lower in these units than in Units 6, 7, 15 and 14, and hunting black bears is not a popular recreational activity.

---

Table 6. Spring Black bear harvests in Units 11 and 13, 1989-93.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Taken over Bait</u>	<u>% Taken over Bait</u>
1989	29	7	24
1990	28	5	19
1991	51	7	14
1992	30	5	17
1993	23	6	26

---

The explanations for harvest patterns in the various units are highly speculative and subject to other interpretations.

\*Baiters were more likely to harvest a female bear than bear hunters not hunting over bait during the spring. Bear baiters harvested 494 bears in southcentral Alaska during the 5-year period 1989-93, and 65% were males (Table 7). Nonbaiters killed 1,720 black bears during this time and 75% were males.

Table 7. The sex composition of spring black bear harvest by baiters and nonbaiters in southcentral Alaska, 1989-93.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Nonbaited</u>	<u>Males (%)</u>	<u>Baited</u>	<u>Males (%)</u>
GMU 6	894	697 (78)	34	25 (74)
GMU 7 & 15	440	326 (74)	160	96 (60)
GMU 16	172	115 (67)	156	106 (68)
GMU 14A & 14B	90	64 (71)	115	71 (62)
<u>GMU 11 &amp; 13</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>95 (77)</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>22 (76)</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>1,297 (75)</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>320 (65)</b>

Individuals hunting in the spring killed 1,081 black bears during the past five years in Units 6, 11, and 13 (Table 7). However hunters did not take many bears over bait in these units, and the percentage of males taken by baiters nearly equaled the percentage of males harvested by nonbaiters.

Hunters killed 328 black bears in spring harvest in Unit 16 during 1989-93 (Table 7). Baiters accounted for a high

percentage (5-year mean = 49%) of the spring harvest.

Hunters harvested 156 bears over bait during the past five years and 68% were males. Nonbaiting hunters accounted for 172 bears during this time and 67% were males.

Spring bear hunters killed 600 black bears in Units 7 and 15 during 1989-93 (Table 7). During this 5-year period, baiters harvested 160 bears and 60% were males. Nonbaiters took 440 bears and 74% were males.

Spring hunters harvested 205 black bears in Subunits 14A and 14B during 1989-93 (Table 7). Baiters killed 115 bears during this time and 62% were males. Nonbaiters accounted for 90 black bears during the past five years and 71% were males.

#### **SUMMARY AND OTHER ISSUES**

In 1982, the Board of Game enacted a regulation allowing hunting of black bears over bait. There were several justifications for the Board's action. One objective the Board accomplished with bear baiting was to provide archers additional opportunity to hunt black bears in the spring. The Board recognized that baiting allows hunters to be more selective in choosing which bear to kill. The Board viewed baiting as a method which could accomplish the objective of

reducing the number of female black bears taken during the spring.

Hunting black bears over bait was a very popular activity in southcentral Alaska. Nearly 600 individuals hunted black bears over bait for 2,200 days during the spring of 1993. Scouting for a baiting site, collecting bait, prebaiting, and other activities associated with bear baiting increased the number of days people were involved in bear baiting to more than 7,600 days.

Hunters killed 119 bears over bait in 1993 and hunter success rate was 40%. Individuals using firearms accounted for 53% of the harvest and archers 47%. A total of 32% of the successful hunters were able to sex the bear prior to killing it. During the past five years, baiters were significantly more likely to harvest a female black bear than individuals not hunting over bait.

The typical bear baiter was a male in his late thirties who has resided in Alaska for more than a decade. Baiters have more than six years of bear hunting experience and have harvested 1.7 black bears in Alaska. In addition, bear baiters averaged 2.6 years of experience hunting over bait in Alaska but 44% of the baiters were hunting over bait for the first time in 1993. A total of 27% of the baiters previously had harvested an average of 2.3 bears over bait

but 23% of the hunters who went afield harvested their first bear over bait this past spring.

Over 36% of the hunters returned to the same bait station where 47% of them previously had harvested a bear. May was the month when most bear baiters got busy. They used a variety of food items including doughnuts, suet, grease, meat, fish and dog food to attract bears.

Nearly 57% of bear baiters observed bears at their bait stations. Successful hunters observed an average of 3.0 adult black bears and 0.3 adult brown bears. Surprisingly, hunters who were successful in taking a bear over bait, and this was their first black bear by any method, saw an average of 2.9 adult black bears.

Bow hunters that baited have hunted bears for more years than bear baiters that used firearms. Bow hunters were significantly more confident in their ability to sex bears than individuals using firearms. Archers were significantly closer to the bear when they took their initial shot, presumably increasing their ability to sex a bear.

Bear baiting is a controversial and sometimes emotional issue. Miller and McCollum (Ibid) asked Alaska hunters and voters if they supported allowing hunters to use bait to hunt black bears. Fifty-two percent of southcentral hunters

supported bear baiting, 34% were opposed to baiting, and 10% did not have an opinion. A total of 47% of hunters statewide supported bear baiting, 39% were opposed to baiting, and 11% did not have an opinion. Alaska voters did not support bear baiting; 63% were opposed to bear baiting, 22% supported baiting, and 12% did not have an opinion.

The Board of Game provides a forum for discussion and resolution of controversial wildlife issues. It is the department's responsibility to provide accurate information for the Board's deliberations.

#### **Acknowledgments**

We wish to thank Earl Becker for biometrics assistance. Biologists Herman Griesse, Ted Spraker, and Larry Aumiller helped with developing the questionnaire. Bruce Bartley assisted with developing the survey and Bruce, Suzan Bowen, and Kiana Koenen helped edit this report.



Alaska Bear Hunters,

November 2, 1993

A couple of weeks ago I sent you this bear baiting questionnaire. I want to thank the 25 percent of you who took the time to answer and promptly return it. However, due to the low response rate, our statistician is on my back; and if more of you don't return questionnaires, it's unlikely I'll shake him.

We're interested in developing a picture of who baits black bears and how they go about it. And unless you help, our picture is going to be fuzzy! These are not the statistician's words, but you get the idea.

If you did not respond to the first questionnaire, please take a moment to fill out this one and drop it in the mail. If you have already completed and returned a questionnaire, disregard this one. Those who return a questionnaire will remain anonymous. Thanks for your help.

Jeffrey H Hughes  
Wildlife Biologist

#### BEAR BAITING QUESTIONNAIRE

Hunter information: Sex M F (circle one), Age\_\_\_\_,  
Alaska resident for \_\_\_\_years.

1. How many years have you hunted specifically for black or brown bears (any method)? \_\_\_\_years
2. How many sport harvested bears have you killed in Alaska?  
\_\_\_\_black bears; \_\_\_\_brown bears.
3. How many years have you hunted bears over bait in Alaska?  
\_\_\_\_years
4. How many black bears have you killed over bait in Alaska?  
Total\_\_\_\_.
5. Which one factor listed below was most important in the selection of your bait site?  
Easy Access\_\_\_\_; Close to Home\_\_\_\_; Good Bear Habitat\_\_\_\_; Bag Limit\_\_\_\_; Other\_\_\_\_\_.

Appendix I, continued.

6. Have you used this bait site in previous years? No\_\_\_\_.  
Yes\_\_\_\_; If yes, how many years\_\_\_\_; how many bears have you  
taken previously at this site\_\_\_\_\_.
7. What baits did you use this year?\_\_\_\_\_
8. When did you initially put bait at this site this year?  
Date:\_\_\_\_\_.
9. How many bears did you observe at your bait station this  
year? Black bears, adult\_\_\_\_ cub\_\_\_\_; Brown bears,  
adult\_\_\_\_ cub\_\_\_\_\_.
10. Which one factor listed below was your primary harvest goal  
this season?  
Hide\_\_\_\_; Large Animal\_\_\_\_; Meat\_\_\_\_; First Bear\_\_\_\_; Reduce  
Moose Predation\_\_\_\_; Other\_\_\_\_\_.
11. Did you hunt from a stand or on the ground; usually morning,  
evening, anytime? Stand\_\_\_\_; Ground\_\_\_\_;  
Morning\_\_\_\_; Evening\_\_\_\_; Anytime\_\_\_\_\_.
12. Did you kill a bear over bait this year? No\_\_\_\_; Yes\_\_\_\_.  
If yes, could you determine the sex of the bear before you  
killed it? No\_\_\_\_; Yes\_\_\_\_; If yes, how did you determine  
sex?  
\_\_\_\_ Observed genitals;  
\_\_\_\_ Head conformation;  
\_\_\_\_ Body size and shape;  
\_\_\_\_ Other(specify)\_\_\_\_\_
13. What type of weapon did you use to kill this bear?  
Rifle\_\_\_\_; Handgun\_\_\_\_; Shotgun\_\_\_\_; Muzzleloader\_\_\_\_; Bow & Arrow\_\_\_\_.
14. How far was the bear from you when you initially shot it?  
\_\_\_\_yards.
15. How many people hunted at your bait station this year?  
Men\_\_\_\_; Women\_\_\_\_; Children (16 or younger)\_\_\_\_\_.
16. How many days did you spend this year in baiting activities  
listed below? NOTE record time in whole days, that is, if  
you spent a couple of hours collecting bait, record as 1  
day; if 2 people hunted for 1 day, record as 2 days.  
\_\_\_\_ days scouting for bait site;  
\_\_\_\_ days collecting bait;  
\_\_\_\_ days pre-baiting site;  
\_\_\_\_ days hunting at site;  
\_\_\_\_ days other (Specify)\_\_\_\_\_.

**PLEASE:** Return questionnaire to J. Hughes, 333 Raspberry Road,  
Anchorage, 99518. Thanks for your assistance!



## Baiting Requirements\*

You may not hunt brown bears over bait but you may establish bait stations for black bears in certain areas after registering with the department. Black bears may be taken with the use of bait only as follows: In **Unit 14(A)** between April 15 and May 25; **Unit 14(B)** between April 15 and May 31; in **Units 1(A) (B) (D), 2,3,5,6,7,** (except Resurrection Creek and its tributaries), **11, 13, and 16** (except Denali State Park) **15, and 17,** between April 15 and June 15; and in **Units 12, 19-21, 24 and 25** between April 15 and June 30. Baiting of black bear is subject to the following restrictions:

- Before you set up a bait station, you must go to a Fish and Game office and register. You will get a sign to post at your station. If you choose not to use this sign, you must place another that clearly identifies the site as a "black bear bait station." The sign must also display the hunter's hunting license number, and a number assigned by the department.
- You may have no more than two bait stations at the same time. All bait must be biodegradable. The only parts of fish and game that may be legally used as bait are heads, bones, guts, or skin.
- You may not set up a bait station within one quarter mile of a publicly maintained road or trail.
- You may not set up a bait station within one mile of a house or other permanent dwelling or within one mile of a developed recreational facility.
- You may not take money, bartered goods, or services from someone who uses your bait station. This does not apply to professional guide/outfitters or their assistants who accompany the clients at the bait station site.
- You must remove litter and equipment from the bait station site when hunting is completed

In areas where the bag limit is greater than one, the department may limit the number of bears taken over bait as a condition of registration.

The department may prohibit black bear baiting within units where baiting is allowed to avoid overharvest of bears.

**You may not take a black bear over bait in Units 14, 15, and 16** with a bow and arrow unless you have successfully completed a department approved bowhunting course.

You cannot register a bait station unless you are at least 16 years old (5 AAC 92.085).

---

\* Alaska State Hunting Regulations, No. 34, effective dates July 1, 1993 - June 30, 1994.

**The role of the Division of  
Wildlife Conservation is to  
conserve and enhance Alaska's  
wildlife and to provide for a  
wide range of uses for the  
greatest benefit of current and  
future generations of the  
people.**



The Alaska Department of Fish and Game administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information please write to ADF&G, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203 or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

For information on alternative formats for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-6077, (TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078.