

## **Moose Calf Mortality on the Kuskokwim River, Alaska: A Preliminary Look at the Effectiveness of Removing Bears During Calving**

**M.A. Keech** (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks, AK 99701;  
mark\_keech@fishgame.state.ak.us)

**T.A. Boudreau and M.M. Szepanski** (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, McGrath, AK 99701;  
toby\_boudreau@fishgame.state.ak.us, michelle\_szepanski@fishgame.state.ak.us)

We studied causes and timing of moose (*Alces alces gigas*) calf mortality during 2001, 2002, and 2003 in western interior Alaska along the Kuskokwim River by radiocollaring and monitoring newborn moose. In addition, during spring 2003, we removed black bears (*Ursus americanus*) and grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) from a 1350 km<sup>2</sup> portion of the study area in an attempt to reduce predation on calves by those species. From birth to late summer, predation by bears accounted for mortality of 41% of all calves captured during 2001 and 38% of all calves captured during 2002. The overall summer survival rates for newborns were 49% and 45% during 2001 and 2002, respectively. During 2003, following removal of bears, predation by bears accounted for mortality of 19% of all calves captured, and the overall survival rate from birth to late summer was 72%.



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