

**SOURCES AND USE OF FURBEARER HARVEST DATA
FOR MAKING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS IN ALASKA**

MARK E. MCNAY, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1300 College
Road, Fairbanks, AK 99708 U.S.A.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game monitors furbearer harvests through mandatory and voluntary harvest reporting programs. River otter, lynx, and wolf pelts are sealed under the requirements of C.I.T.E.S. Beaver and wolverine pelts are sealed statewide as prescribed by Alaska state regulations, and marten are sealed under state regulations that apply to selected game management units. Estimates of harvest for non-sealed species are made from required fur acquisition reports submitted by dealers and from required fur export reports required of all persons exporting furs from Alaska. Voluntary reports resulting from trapper questionnaire and carcass collection programs assist local managers in making localized management decisions.

The regulatory decision process in Alaska is based on significant public input. Any individual or organization within Alaska may submit a proposal for changes in furbearer harvest regulations. In addition, proposals are submitted by government biologists and Citizen Fish and Game Advisory Committees. All proposals are reviewed by a 7 member Board of Game which is appointed by the Governor. The Board of Game actions become regulations under state statutes governing the use of Fish and Wildlife.

A lynx harvest tracking strategy is currently the only standardized policy for fur harvest regulations. Sex or age composition of harvest is used by local managers to recommend regulation changes for marten and beaver. Computer modelling of demographic and harvest data is used by some biologists for harvest recommendations.

Seventh Northern



Furbearer Conference

Agenda and Abstracts
April 22 & 23, 1993
Whitehorse, Yukon