

2019 Alaska Trapper Report:

1 July 2019–30 June 2020

Stephanie E. Bogle



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This wildlife management report was reviewed and approved for publication by Stephanie E. Bogle, ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire Coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Conservation.

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Cover Photo: Leo Pepin with a hare he snared on his line near King Salmon. Photo by Dan Pepin.

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Photo by Brian McCorison



Photo by Jesse Ross

Code of Ethics

A TRAPPER’S RESPONSIBILITY

1. Respect other trapper’s “grounds” – particularly brushed, maintained traplines with a history of use.
2. Check traps regularly.
3. Promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching nontarget animals.
4. Obtain landowners’ permission before trapping on private property.
5. Know and use proper releasing and killing methods.
6. Develop set location methods to prevent losses.
7. Trap in the most humane way possible.
8. Dispose of animal carcasses properly.
9. Concentrate trapping in areas where animals are overabundant for the supporting habitat.
10. Promptly report the presence of diseased animals to wildlife authorities.
11. Assist landowners who are having problems with predators and other furbearers that have become a nuisance.
12. Support and help train new trappers in trapping ethics, methods and means, conservation, fur handling, and marketing.
13. Obey all trapping regulations and support strict enforcement by reporting violations.
14. Support and promote sound furbearer management.

This code of ethics is reprinted from the *Alaska Trappers Manual*. The manual was created in a joint effort between the Alaska Trappers Association and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The manual is currently available from the Alaska Trappers Association for \$26.00, including shipping, or from some bookstores in Alaska.



Photo: ADF&G Files

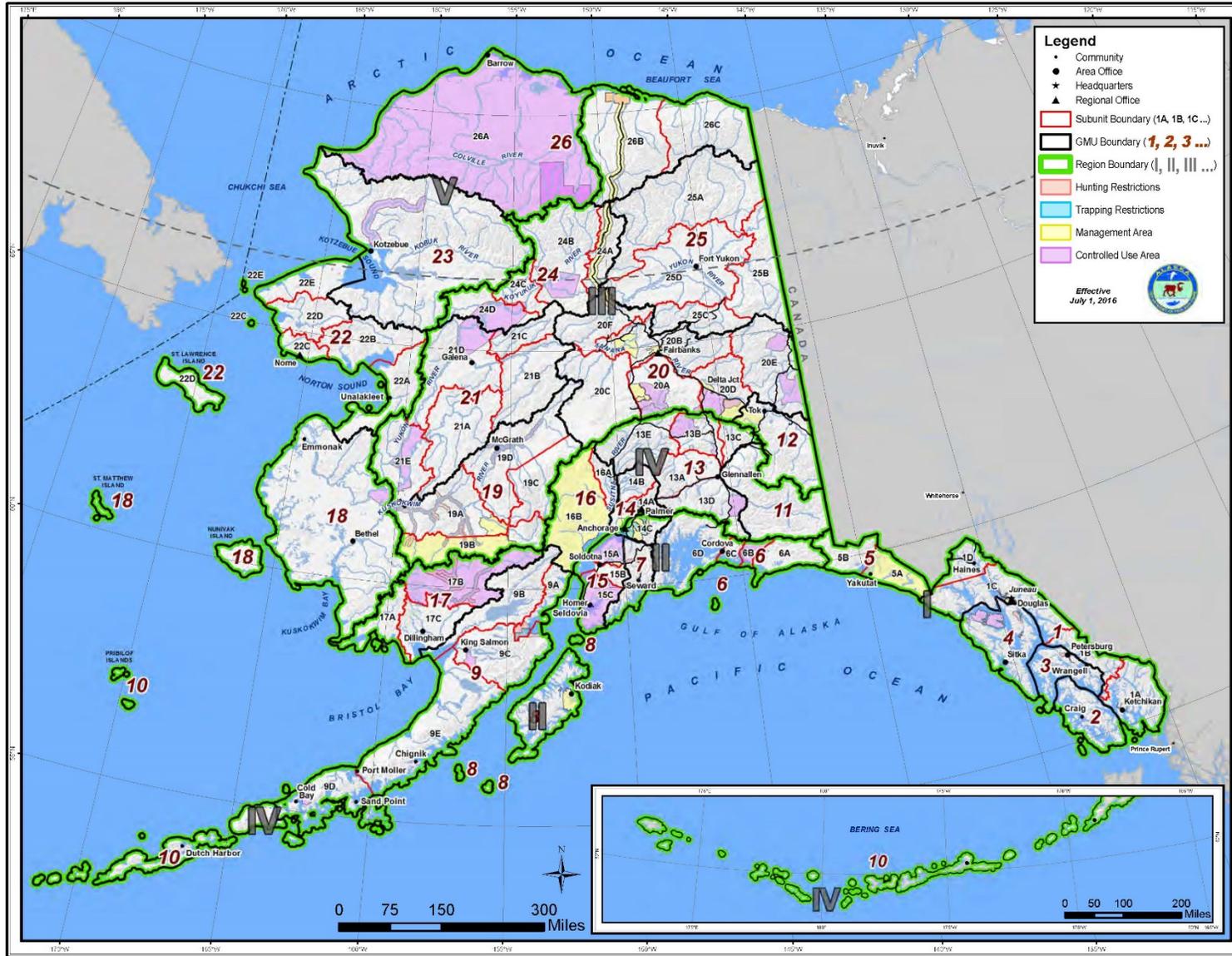


Figure 1. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation’s regions and game management units.

Introduction

This *2019 Alaska Trapper Report: 1 July 2019–30 June 2020* contains information provided by trappers through the annual trapper questionnaire. On the following pages, you will learn how other Alaskans ran their traplines, what their primary target species were, how much effort they put into catching fur, how abundant furbearer and prey species were on their traplines, and how many furbearers they trapped. You will also find fur sealing summaries from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and comments from trappers throughout the state.

In 2015, ADF&G began offering the questionnaire in an online format in hopes of improving the data. We continue to work to improve the questionnaire and the reports generated from information provided by trappers on the questionnaire. We hope trappers and managers alike can use the information in this report to enhance their efforts during future trapping seasons.

The accuracy and value of information provided in this report depends on the numbers of trappers who reply. In order to best reach trappers with this questionnaire, we identified potential trappers using licensing and fur sealing records. 2019 questionnaire invites were sent only to people who purchased a trapping license, hunt/trap combination license, or a hunt/trap/fish combination license authorizing them to trap in 2019. Of the 5,354 questionnaire invites mailed or emailed out, we received 817 responses, yielding a 15.3% response rate. Of those responding, less than 1% of the responses were provided using the paper format, while most respondents chose to answer the questionnaire online. The response rate increased from the response rate for the 2018 survey.

This year, trappers were assigned to the 5 standard regions found in Figure 1 based on their mailing address. If a trapper responded with his/her primary trapline in a region separate from their mailing address, we reassigned that trapper to the trapline's region. This was done in an attempt to accurately reflect trapping effort and locations. Throughout this report, regions will be listed by a roman numeral in place of description (e.g., Region I instead of Southeast): Region I = Southeast Alaska; Region II = Southcentral Alaska, Region III = Interior Alaska, Region IV = Central and Southwest Alaska, Region V = Arctic and Western Alaska.

As always, we maintain strict confidentiality. The names of individuals and references to specific traplines will not be included in any reports. We hope you find this report informative and welcome your suggestions for improvement.

Trapper questionnaire reports are mailed to all trappers who responded to the survey. This report and currently all previous reports can be found on our website:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=trapping.reports>

A Profile of Trapping in Alaska

TRAPPER INFORMATION

Did You Trap?

This year, 5,354 questionnaire invites were mailed throughout the state and 817 were returned for an overall response rate of 15.3% (Table 1). The response rate was highest from Region V and lowest from Region II and Region IV. Statewide, 38.3% of respondents trapped during the 2019–2020 season, regulatory year (RY) 2019 (a regulatory year begins July 1 and ends June 30; e.g., RY19 = 1 July 2019–30 June 2020).

Table 1. Response to 2019 Alaska trapper questionnaire.

Region	Trapped	Did not trap	No response	Total invites	% Responding
I	39	63	514	616	16.6
II	44	203	1,446	1,693	14.6
III	103	100	1,166	1,369	14.8
IV	91	103	1,134	1,328	14.6
V	36	35	277	348	20.4
Total	313	504	4,537	5,354	15.3



Photo by Temple Dillard

Statewide, of respondents who reported they did not trap in RY19 but reported when they last trapped ($n = 481$), 33% ($n = 159$) last trapped within the past 2 years, 38% ($n = 183$) last trapped more than 2 years ago, and the rest (29%, $n = 139$) indicated they were not trappers.

Trapping Experience

During the RY19 season, active trappers statewide averaged 16 years of experience trapping and 12 years of experience trapping in Alaska (Fig. 2, $n = 289$). This is down from the averages over the last 15 years, suggesting there is a younger group of trappers in the field. The average experience trapping in Alaska dropped slightly compared to in 2018. This suggests that Alaska may not be retaining trappers. No data were collected in 2009 or 2014. Trappers in Region I averaged the highest trapping experience overall (17 years trapping), and trappers in Region I also averaged the most experience in Alaska (16 years trapping).

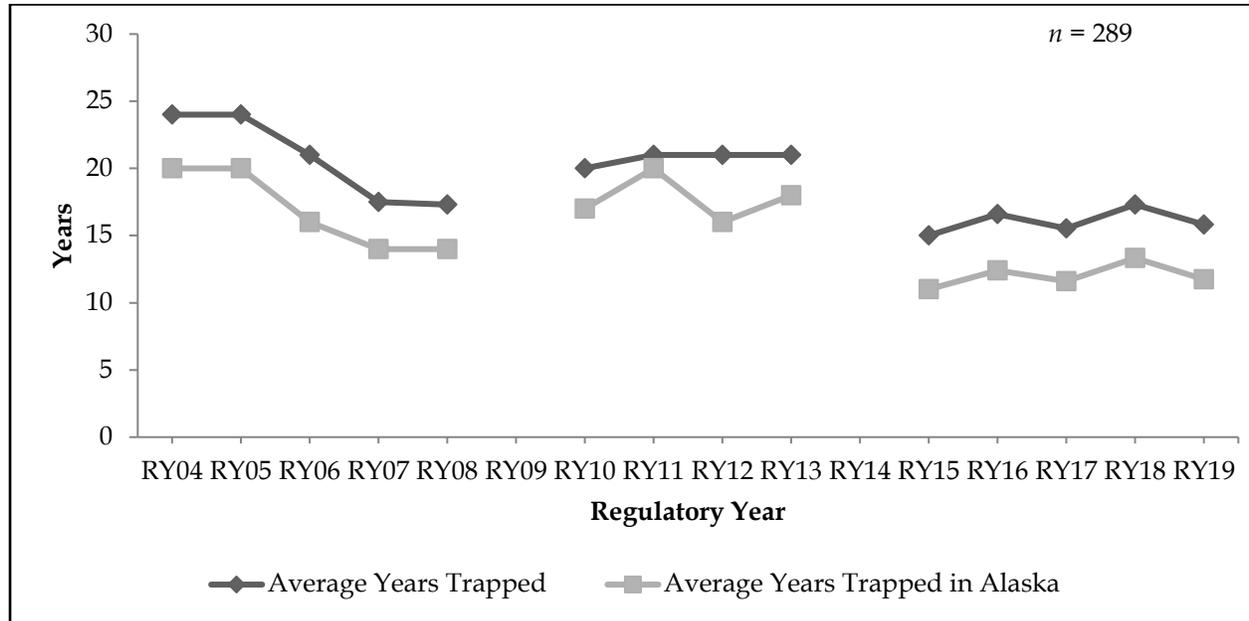


Figure 2. A statewide 15-year trend of trapper age and experience, Alaska, regulatory years 2004–2019.

TRAPLINE INFORMATION

Trapping Area

Statewide, trappers have trapped in the same area for an average of 7 years (Fig. 3, $n = 289$). Trappers in Region I have spent the longest time trapping in the same area (9 years), while Region II trappers have spent the least amount of time in the same area (6 years). The longest time spent trapping in a single area was 54 years, reported by a trapper in Region III.

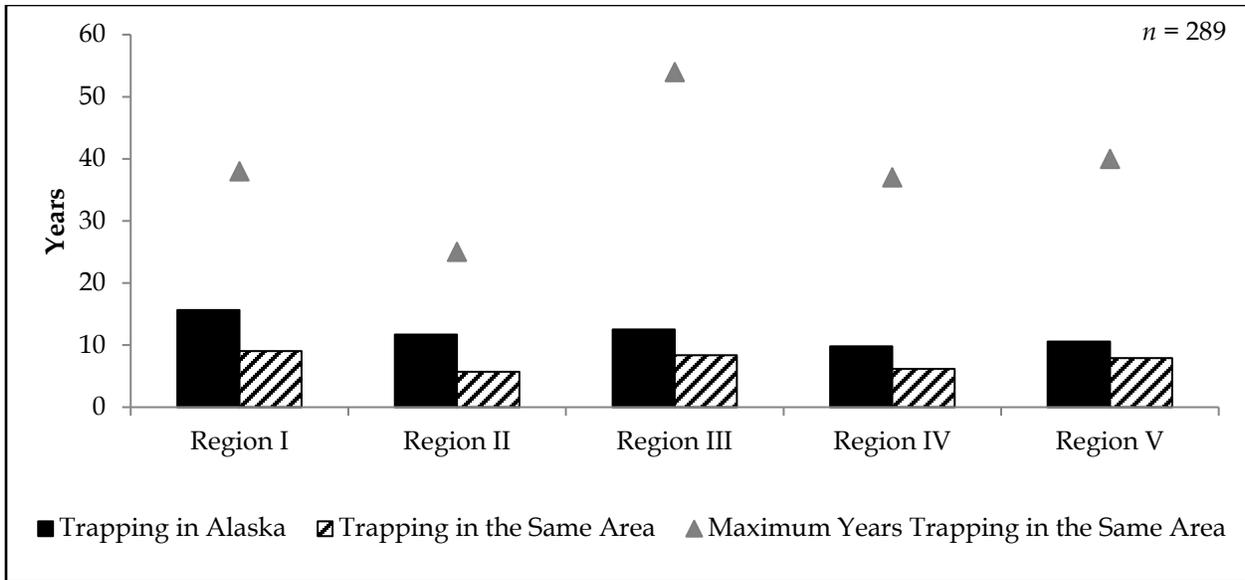


Figure 3. Length of time spent trapping by region, Alaska, regulatory year 2019.

Trapping Frequency

During the RY19 season, trappers averaged 8.2 weeks of trapping (Fig. 4, $n = 286$). Region V trappers spent the longest time trapping (average of 10 weeks), while Region II trappers spent the least amount of time trapping (average of 6 weeks). Statewide, 70% of trappers trapped 10 weeks or less.

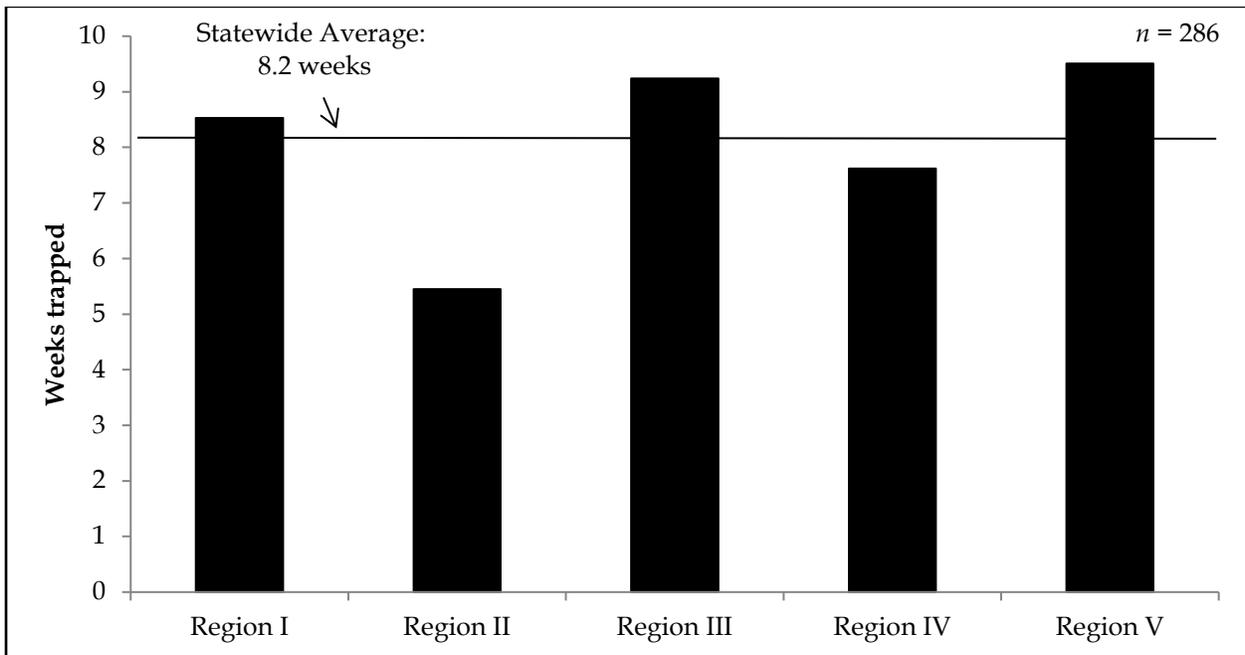


Figure 4. Number of weeks Alaska trappers spent trapping during regulatory year 2019, by region.

Trapline Transportation

Trappers who received the 2019 questionnaire were asked what their primary mode of transportation was for both traveling to their traplines and for running their traplines during the RY19 season. Statewide, the most common mode of transportation trappers used to get to their trapline(s) ($n = 313$), was a highway vehicle 49% ($n = 154$, Fig. 5). Statewide, trappers also commonly reported accessing their trapline(s) using snowmachines (27%, $n = 82$). While highway vehicles were the most common mode of transportation to traplines in Regions II–IV, boats were the most common form of transportation used in Region I and snowmachines were most frequently used to access traplines in Region V.

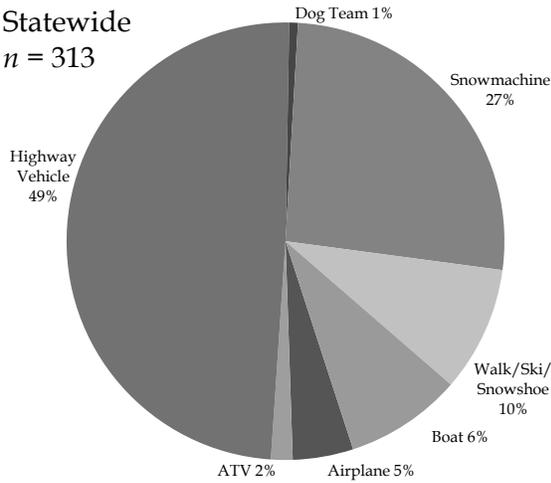
Statewide, the most common mode of transportation trappers used for running their trapline(s) ($n = 310$, Fig. 6), was a snowmachine 52% ($n = 160$). Statewide, trappers also reported running their trapline(s) by walking, skiing, or snowshoeing 29% ($n = 90$). While snowmachines were the most common mode of transportation for running traplines in Regions III–V, boats were the most common mode of transportation for Region I and walking or snowshoeing was the most common form of transportation used by trappers in Region II.



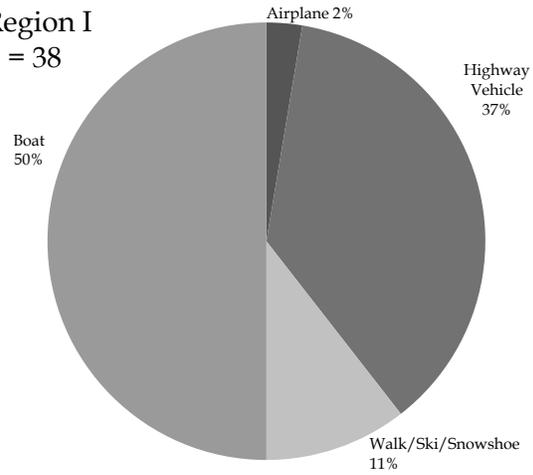
Photo by Jesse Ross

Primary Mode of Transportation from Home to the Traplines

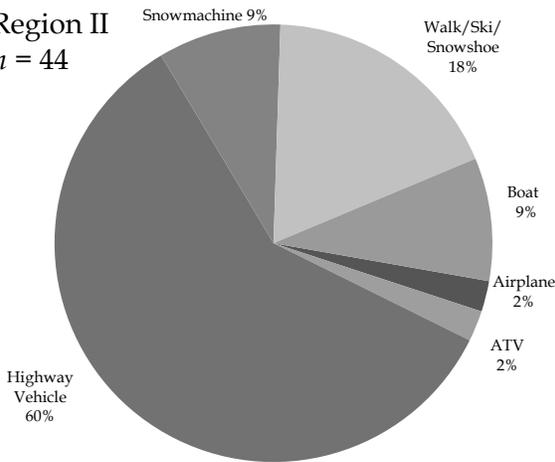
Statewide
n = 313



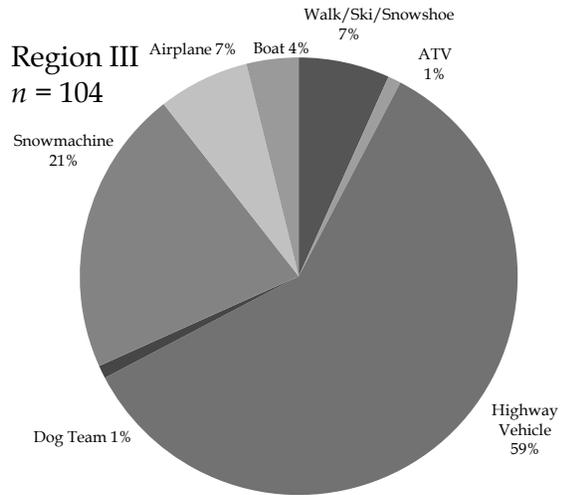
Region I
n = 38



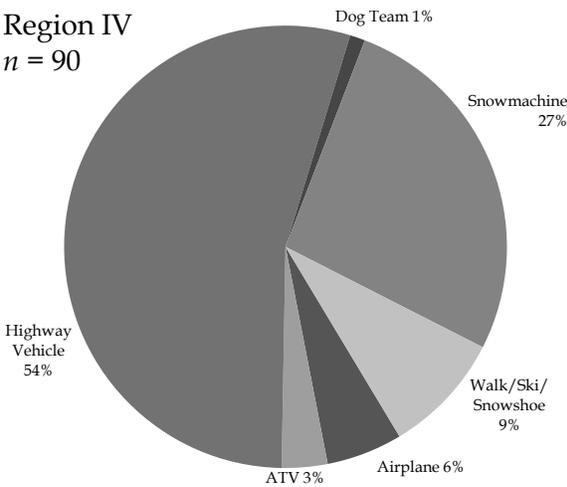
Region II
n = 44



Region III
n = 104



Region IV
n = 90



Region V
n = 37

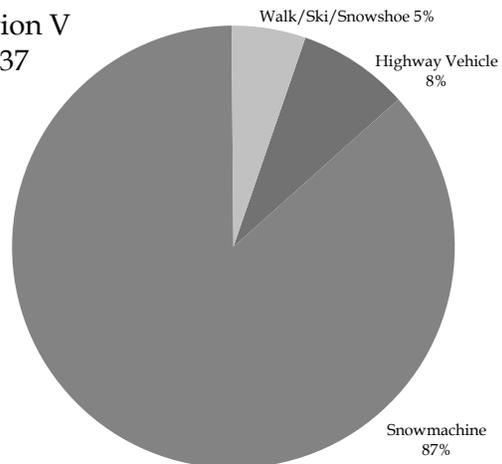
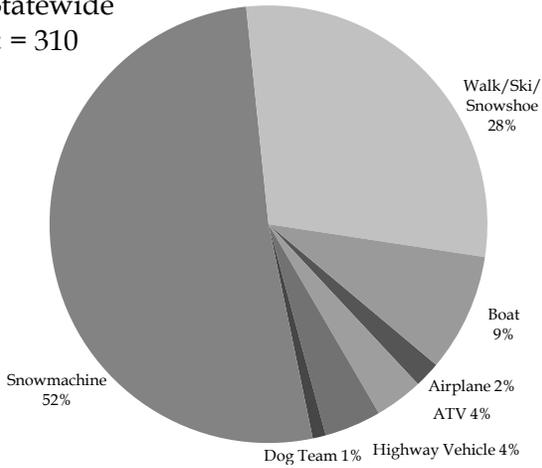


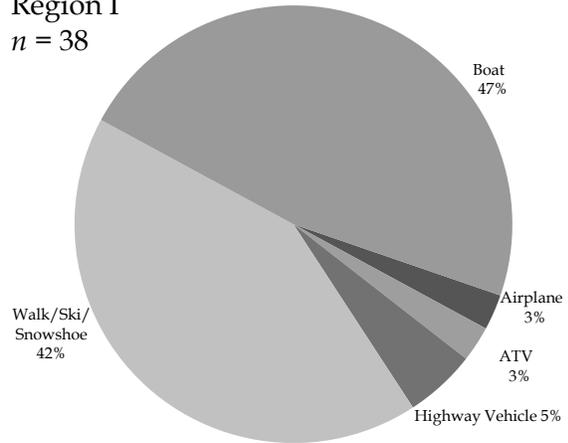
Figure 5. Primary mode of transportation used by Alaska trappers to reach their traplines during the regulatory year 2019.

Primary Mode of Transportation Used to Run the Trapline

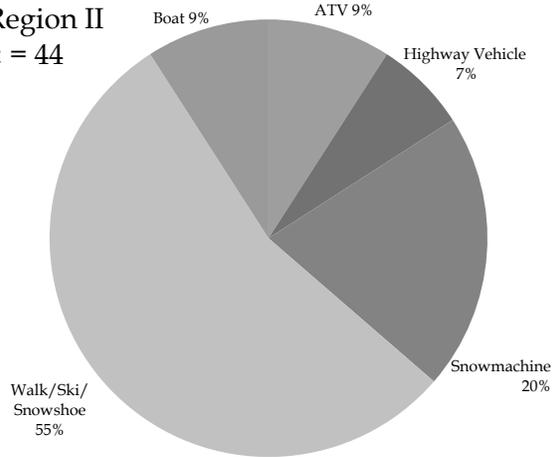
Statewide
n = 310



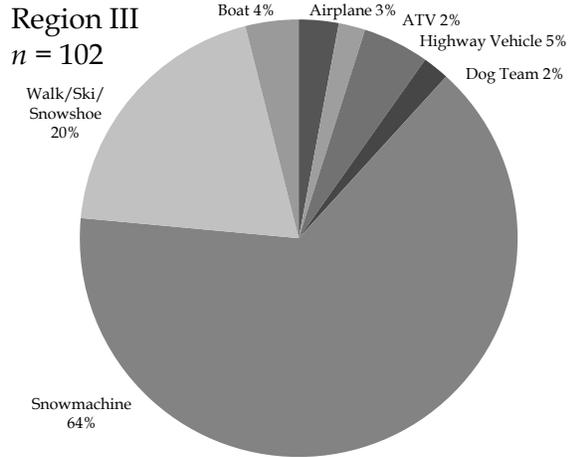
Region I
n = 38



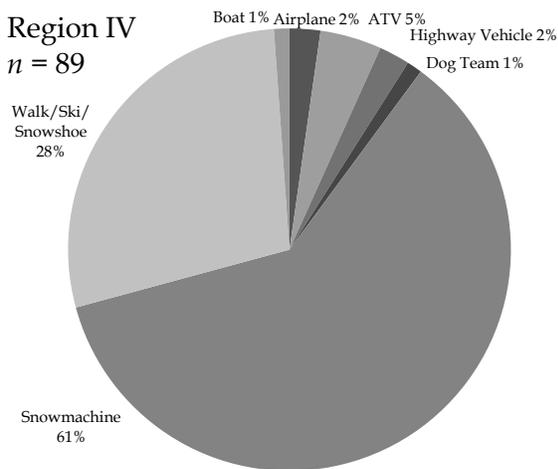
Region II
n = 44



Region III
n = 102



Region IV
n = 89



Region V
n = 37

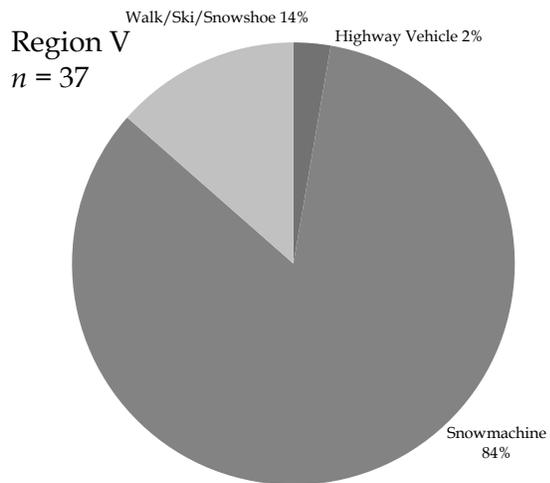


Figure 6. Primary transportation used by Alaska trappers to run their traplines during regulatory year 2019.

Trapline Composition

Statewide, traplines averaged 18 miles in length with 24 sets (Table 2). Region V trappers had the longest average trapline length at 31 miles, and Region III trappers had the highest average number of sets per trapline, at 38 sets per trapline. Region II trappers reported the shortest average trapline length (7 miles) and Region II also reported the lowest average number of sets (13) per trapline.

Table 2. Average reported trapline length and number of sets per trapline in Alaska for regulatory year 2019.

Region	Average trapline length (miles)	Maximum length (miles)	Average number of sets per trapline	Maximum number of sets per trapline
I	9	100	15	80
II	7	40	13	50
III	21	115	38	300
IV	17	300	17	100
V	31	210	28	250
Statewide	18	300	24	300



Photo by Tim McLeod

Trapping Efforts

During the RY19 season, 35% ($n = 102$) of Alaska trappers ($n = 289$) did not change their efforts compared to last season (Fig. 7). Of those who did change their efforts ($n = 187$), 47% increased their efforts. Eighty percent ($n = 69$) of trappers who increased efforts saw an increase in their overall catch.

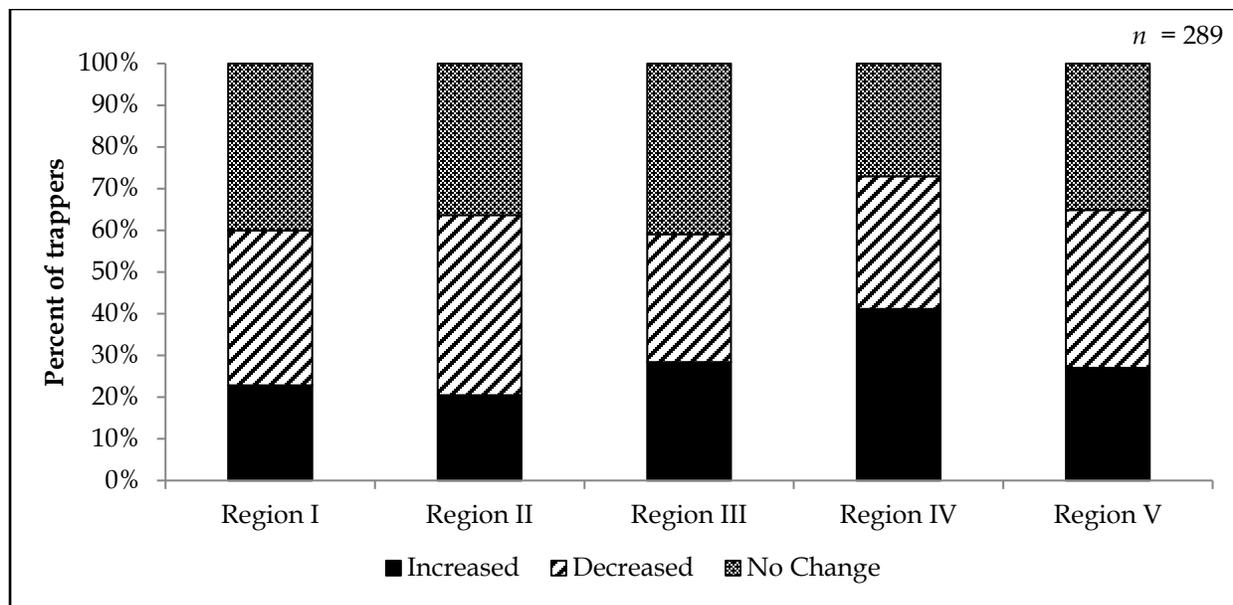


Figure 7. Change in trapping efforts for the regulatory year 2019 season by region, Alaska.



Photo by Jesse Ross

Trappers could choose multiple responses for how their efforts changed in the RY19 season (Fig. 8, $n = 180$ trappers). The two most common changes in effort across Alaska were decreasing the number of weeks spent trapping ($n = 180$) and decreasing the number of sets ($n = 80$). Trappers in Region IV ($n = 60$) reported the greatest decrease in the number of weeks spent trapping, while Region III trappers decreased the number of sets ($n = 22$) more than trappers in any other region.

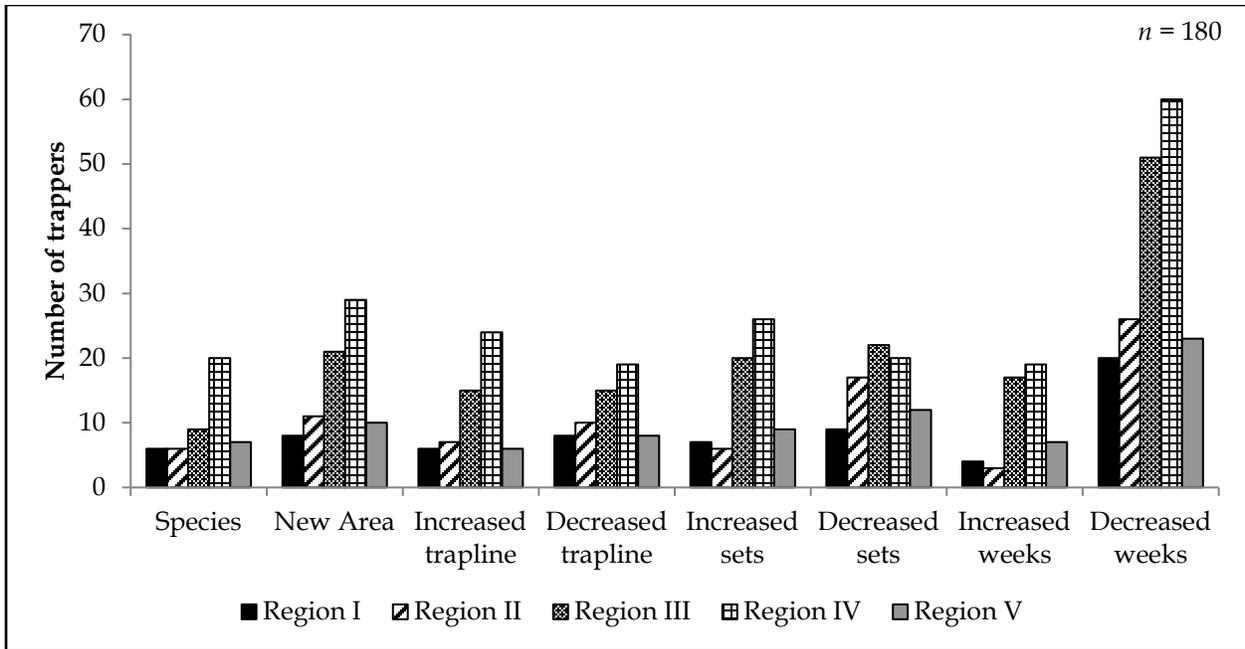


Figure 8. Types of change in trapping effort for the regulatory year 2019 season, Alaska.

Statewide, trappers reporting factors that affected their efforts during the RY19 season ($n = 268$, Fig. 9), indicated trapping conditions (weather, snow depth/cover, ice, etc.) was the leading factor influencing both an increase ($n = 60$) and decrease ($n = 76$) in trapping effort. The preseason advertised prices ($n = 34$) and previous season prices ($n = 32$) negatively influenced trapper effort, while other trappers ($n = 30$) also reportedly caused trappers to equally increase and decrease effort.

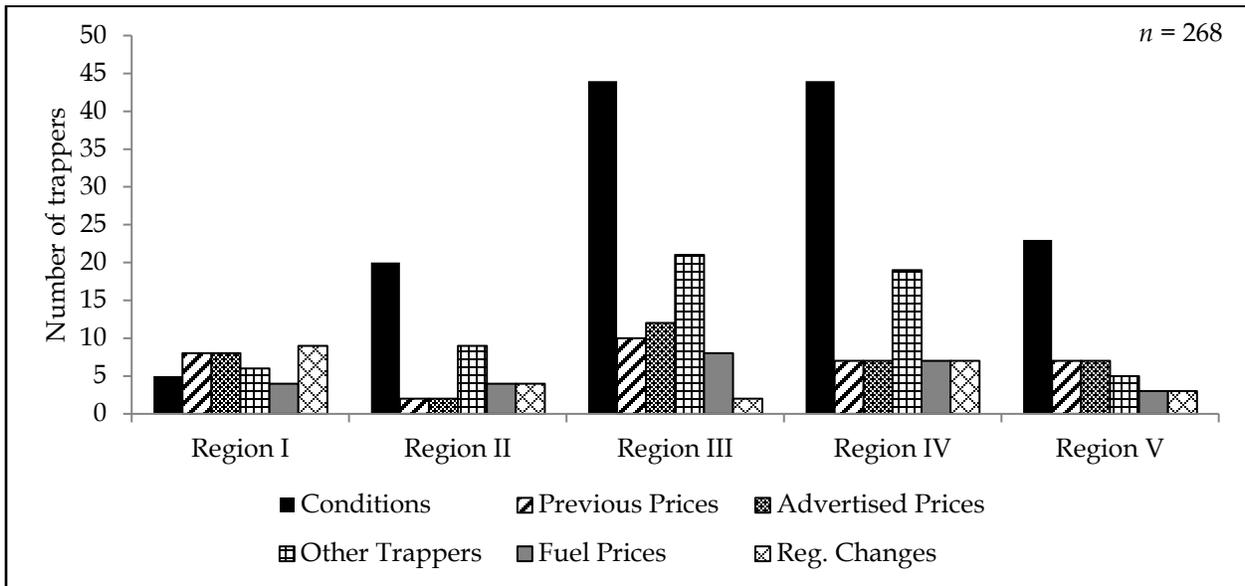


Figure 9. Factors affecting trapping effort by region during the regulatory year 2019 season, Alaska.

TARGET SPECIES AND FUR DISPOSITION

Target Species

Table 3 shows how trappers from different regions ranked each species in order of importance, with 1 being most important and 14 being least important. Rank was calculated by totaling the number of trappers who ranked that species as 1 of the 3 most important species they were trying to catch. Figure 10 shows first, second, and third level ranking by trappers of species statewide.

Lynx was the most important species across Alaska. Lynx ranked as the most important species in Regions III and IV, the third most important in Region V, and the ninth most important in Region II. Statewide, marten ranked as the second most important species, and wolf came in as the third most important species.



Photo by Ryan Ragan

Table 3. Species ranked^a by importance at both statewide and regional levels, Alaska, regulatory year 2019.

Species	Statewide	Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Region V
Lynx	1	-- ^b	9	1	1	3
Marten	2	1	4	2	2	6
Wolf	3	2	7	3	6	3
Red Fox	4	--	3	5	3	1
Wolverine	5	6	9	4	5	2
Beaver	6	5	1	6	7	7
Coyote	7	7	4	7	4	--
River Otter	8	3	2	10	9	5
Mink	9	4	7	8	8	8
Ermine	10	--	4	11	10	--
Muskrat	11	--	9	8	10	--
Arctic fox	12	9	13	11	--	9
Red Squirrel	13	9	12	11	--	--
Fisher	14	9	--	--	--	10

^a Rank = 1–14; with 1 being most important and 14 least important. Repeats of rank indicate that one or more species tied for that rank.

^b Double-dash indicates no trapper ranked the species as one of the most important.

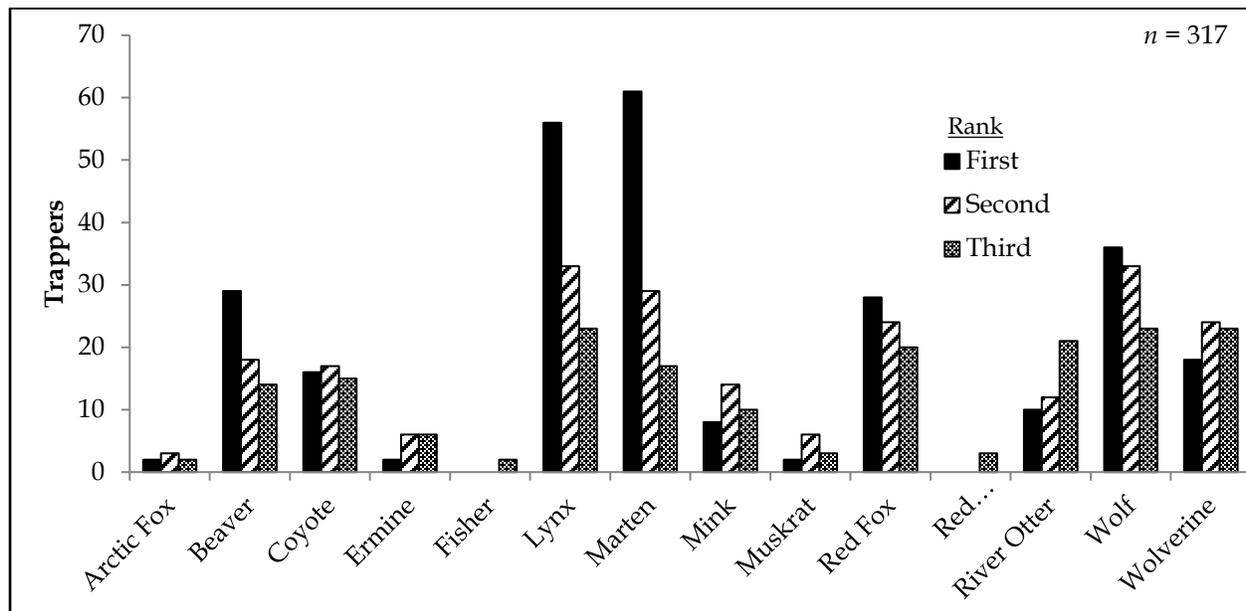


Figure 10. The number of trappers statewide ranking each species as the first, second, or third most important species they targeted during the RY19 season in Alaska.

Presence of Ectoparasites

Trappers who trapped during the RY19 season indicated that ectoparasites, including fleas, ticks, lice, and other species, were mostly scarce or not present across all furs harvested (Table 4). “Other” ectoparasites noted on furbearers included mites on beaver and marten in Region I, a case of mange in wolf and a leach on a beaver in Region II, little black bugs on a squirrel in

Region III, red bugs on a river otter and 2 cases of mange in red foxes in Region V, and red bugs on beavers in regions II, IV, and V. Regionwide ectoparasite abundance was determined by reassigning a numerical value to each category (not present = 0; scarce = 1; common = 2; abundant = 3) and averaging the sum of each region. We created an arbitrary range of values to classify the average opinions of trappers regarding ectoparasite abundance in an area: values of 0 indicated ectoparasites were not present, values >0 and <1.67 indicated scarce ectoparasite abundance, values of 1.67–2.33 indicated common ectoparasite abundance, and values >2.33 indicated abundant ectoparasite abundance. Blank fields indicate that no responses were received.

Table 4. Presence of ectoparasites found on Alaska furbearers by species and region, regulatory year 2019.

Region	Ectoparasite ^a	Species													
		Arctic fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine	Fisher	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red Fox	Red squirrel	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine
I <i>n</i> = 16	F	NP	S	S	NP			S	S			S	S	S	C
	L	S	S	S	NP			S	S				NP	NP	
	T	C	S	S	NP			NP	NP			S	NP	NP	
	O	A	S	S	NP			S	NP				NP	NP	
II <i>n</i> = 12	F	NP	S	S	S	NP	NP	S	S	S	NP	S	S	S	NP
	L	NP	NP	S	S	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP	S	NP
	T	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP
	O	NP	S	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP
III <i>n</i> = 31	F	S	S	S	S	NP	NP	S	S	S	NP	S	S	S	NP
	L	S	S	S	S	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP	S	NP
	T	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP
	O	NP	S	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP
IV <i>n</i> = 24	F	S	S	S	S	NP	S	S	S	NP	S	S	NP	S	S
	L	S	S	S	NP	NP	S	S	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	S
	T	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP
	O	NP	S	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	S	NP
V <i>n</i> = 14	F	S	NP	S	S	NP	C	S	S	NP	S	S	NP	NP	S
	L	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	S	S	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP	NP
	T	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP
	O	NP	S	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP

^a Ectoparasites: F = fleas; L = lice; T = ticks; O = other.

^b S = Scarce

^c NP = Not present.

^d C = Common

^e A = Abundant

Harvest Methods

USE OF PREDATOR CALLS

Statewide, only 34 trappers used any type of predator call; of those trappers, 50% ($n = 17$) used only electronic predator calls, 29% ($n = 10$) used only manual (mouth) predator calls, and 21% ($n = 7$) used both electronic and manual predator calls (Fig. 11).

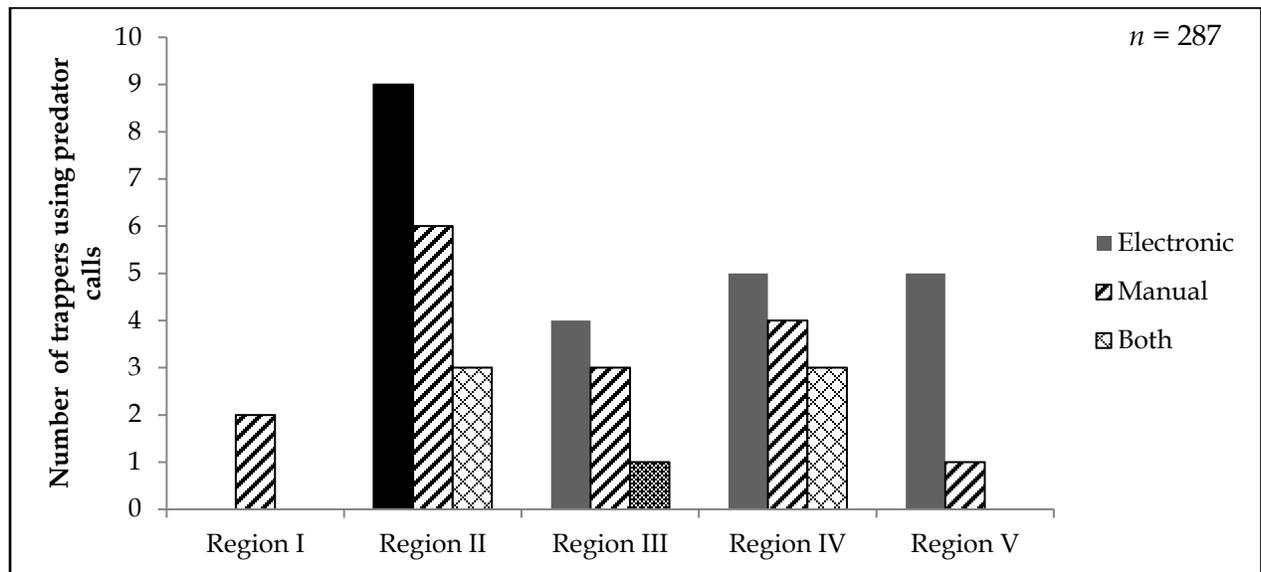


Figure 11. Use of predator calls by region during regulatory year 2019, Alaska.

TRAPPING TECHNIQUES AND SUCCESS

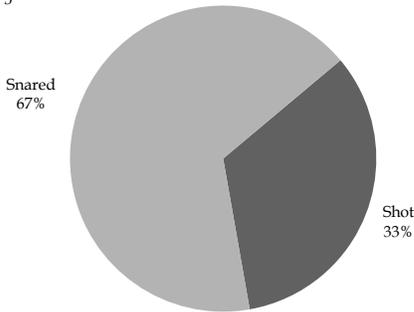
Trappers responding to the 2019 questionnaire were asked to provide the number of pelts they took using each trapping technique (i.e., shot, snared, foothold, Conibear, or other). Summaries of the number of pelts taken using each technique for each species harvested are provided in Figures 12–24.



Photo by Jerry Bendzak

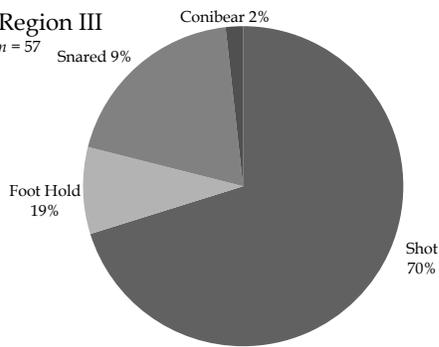
ARCTIC FOX

Region I
n = 3

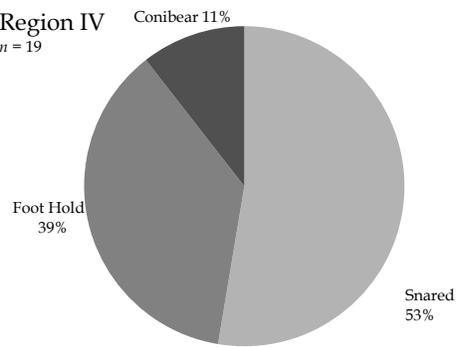


Region II
No harvest reported

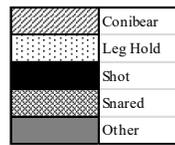
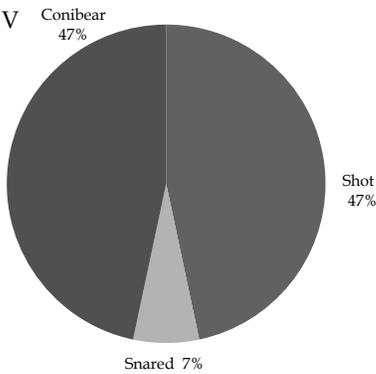
Region III
n = 37



Region IV
n = 19



Region V
n = 15



Statewide Trends in All Fox Harvest Methods

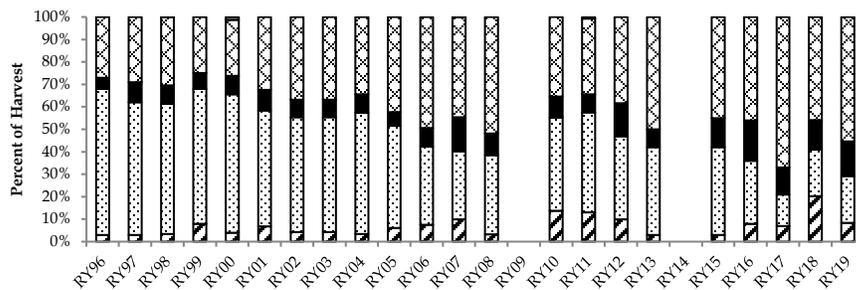


Figure 12. Methods trappers used to harvest Arctic fox in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

BEAVER

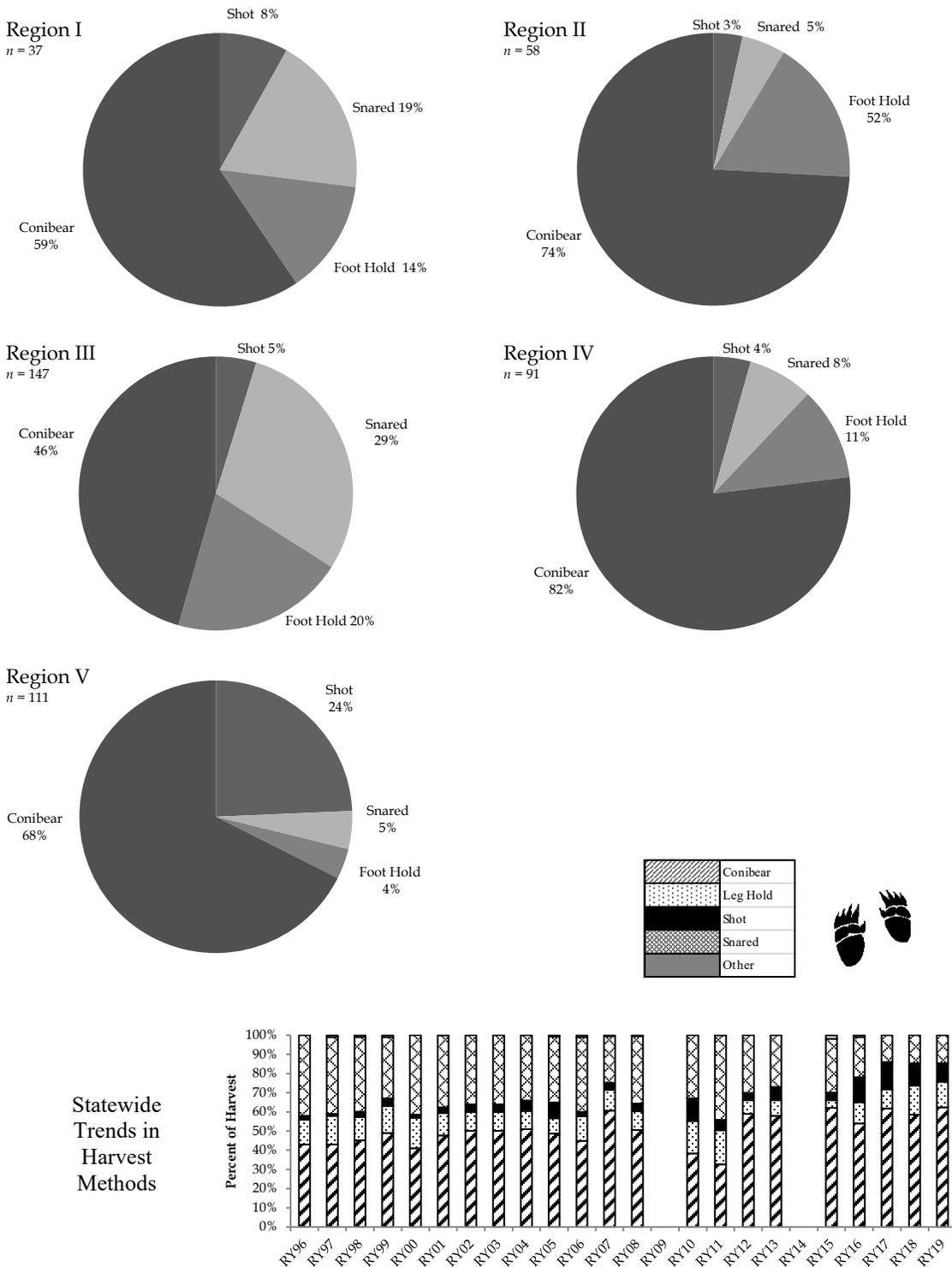


Figure 13. Methods trappers used to harvest beaver in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

COYOTE

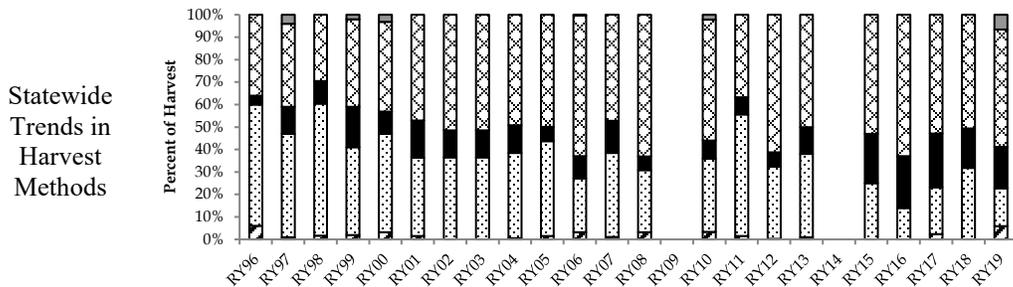
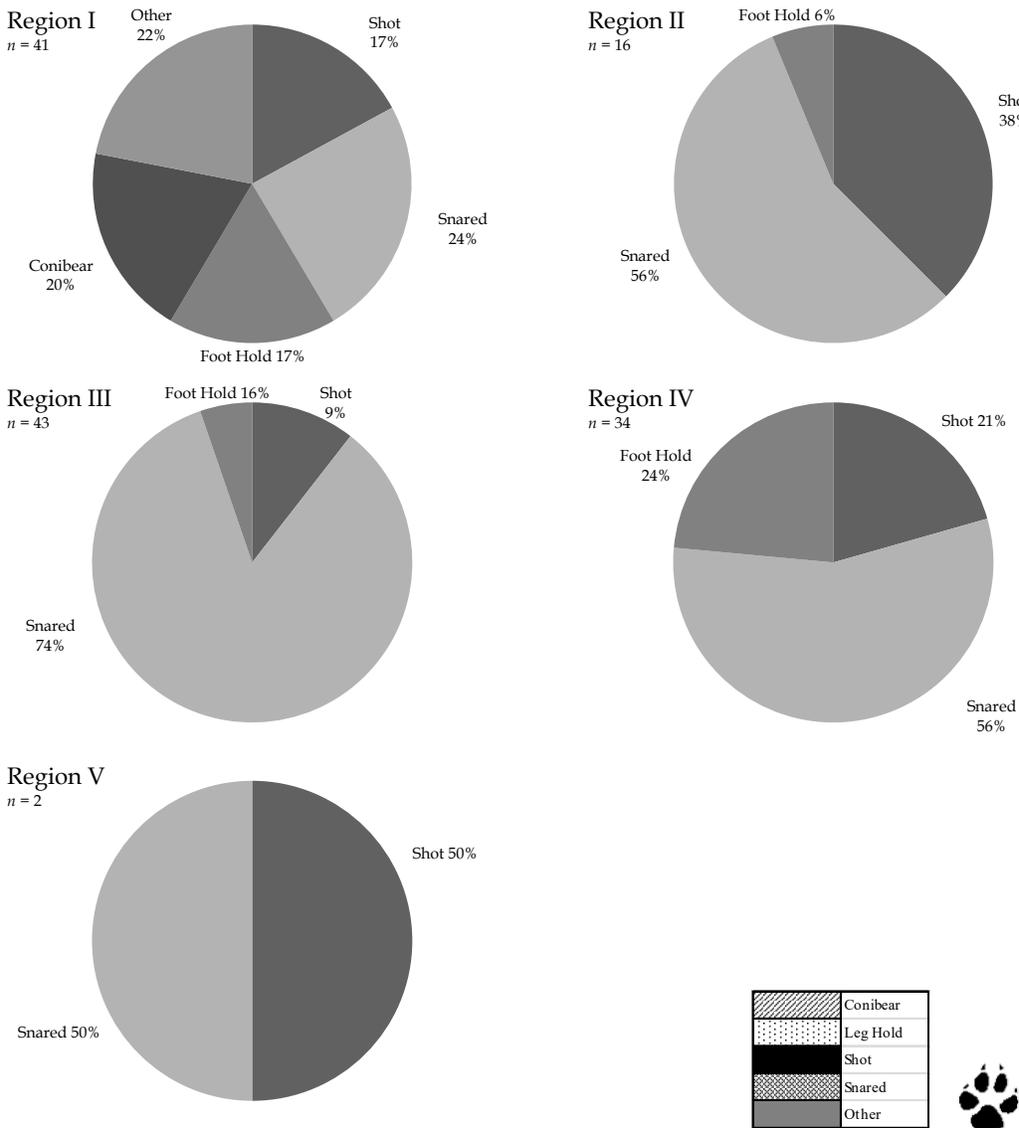
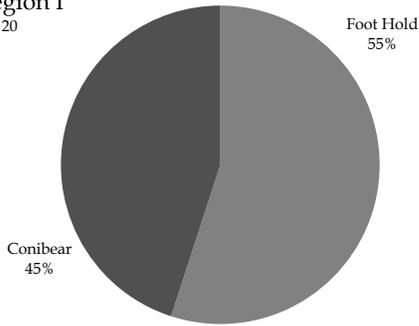


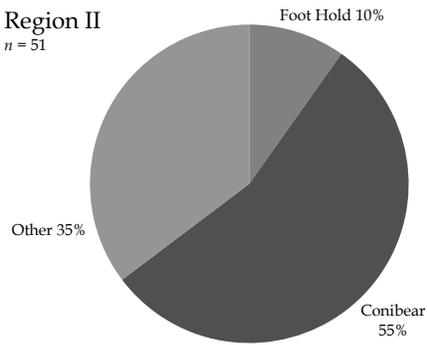
Figure 14. Methods trappers used to harvest coyote in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

ERMINE

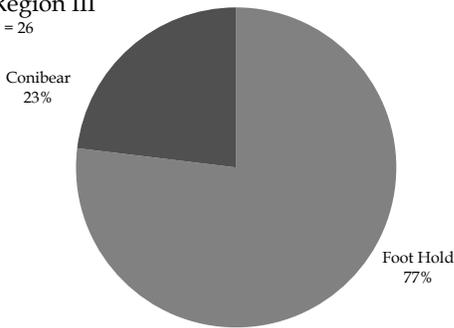
Region I
n = 20



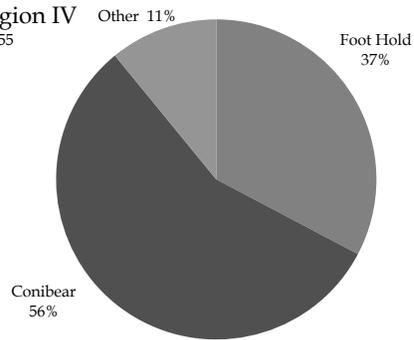
Region II
n = 51



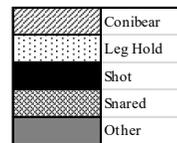
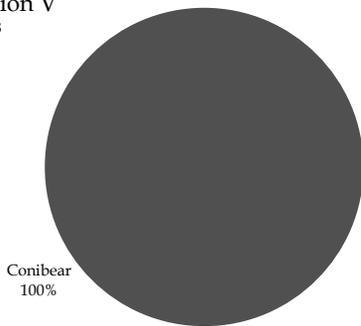
Region III
n = 26



Region IV
n = 55



Region V
n = 58



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

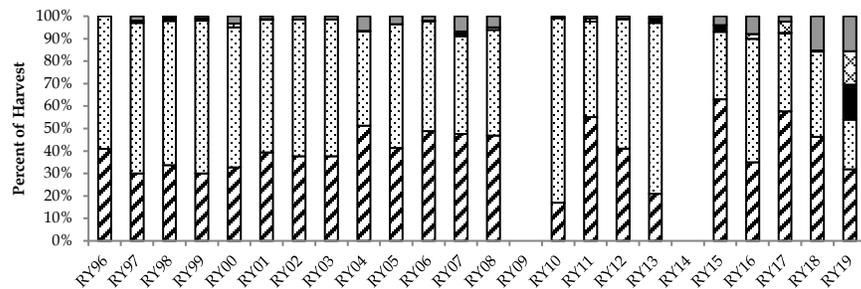


Figure 15. Methods trappers used to harvest ermine in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

FISHER

Region I
n = 1

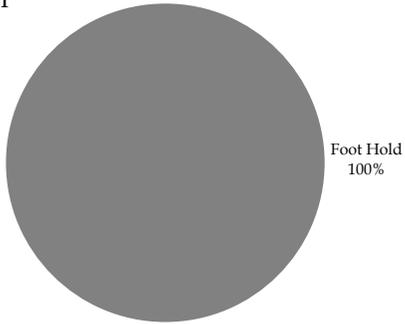


Photo by John Jacobson

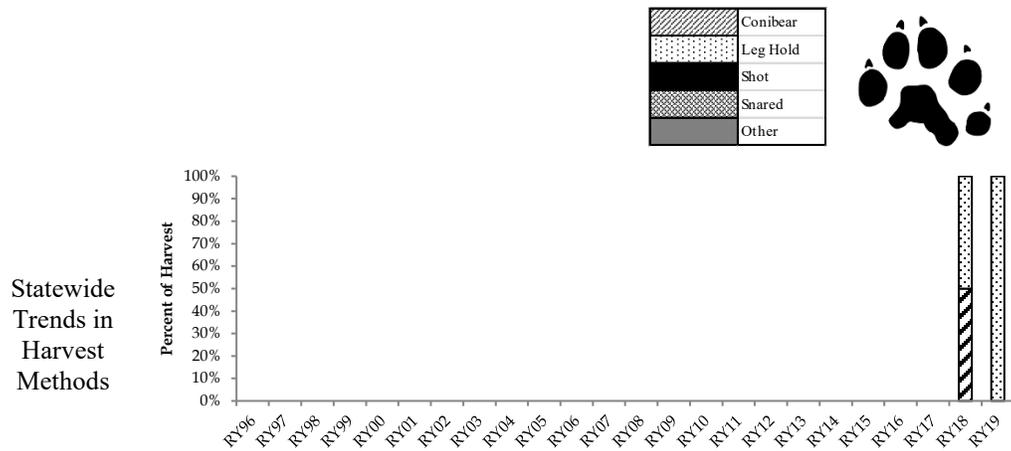
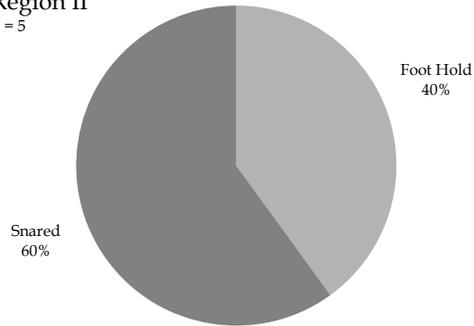


Figure 16. Methods trappers used to harvest fisher in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

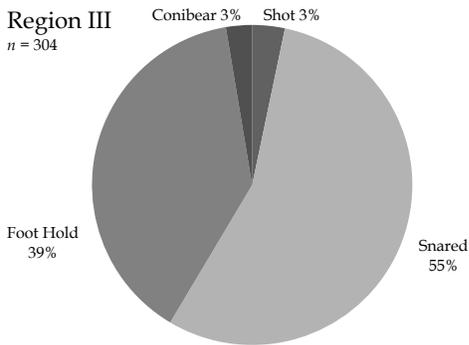
LYNX

Region I
No harvest reported

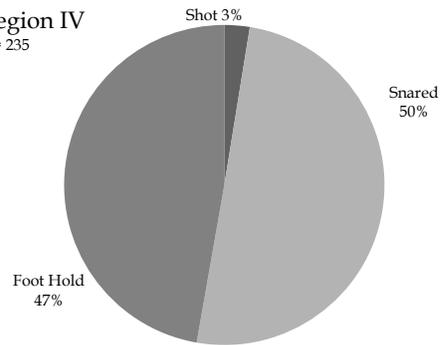
Region II
n = 5



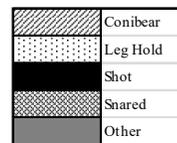
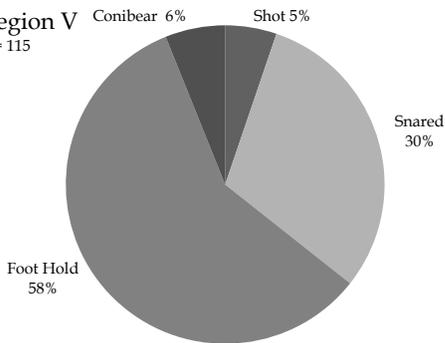
Region III
n = 304



Region IV
n = 235



Region V
n = 115



Statewide
Trends in
Harvest
Methods

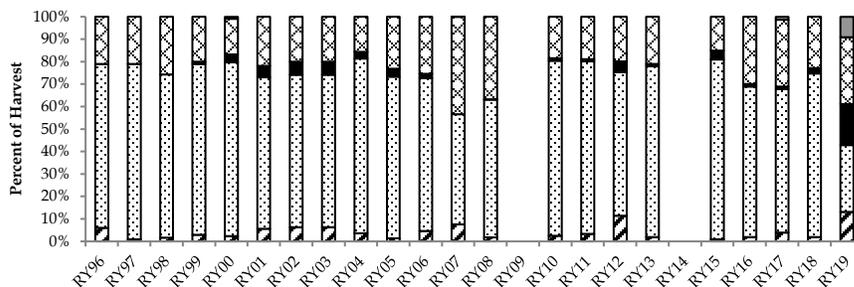


Figure 17. Methods trappers used to harvest lynx in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

MARTEN

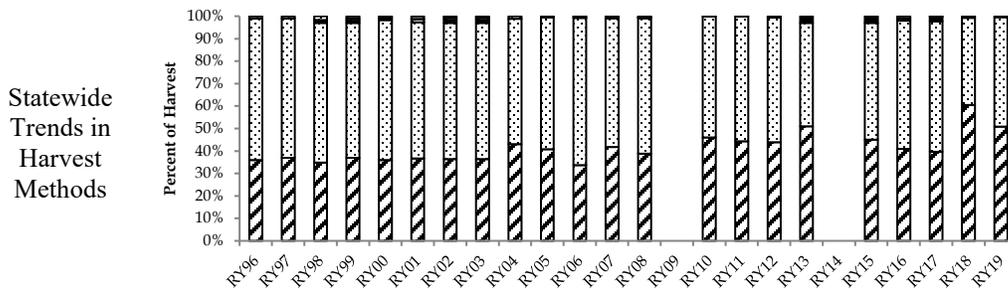
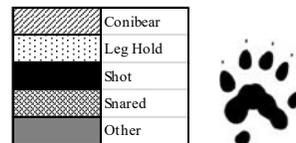
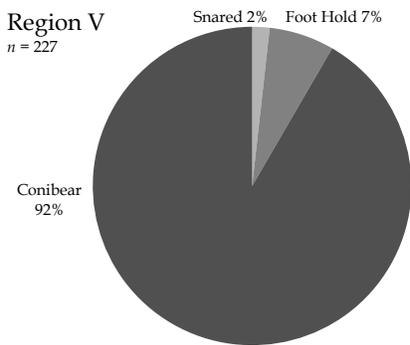
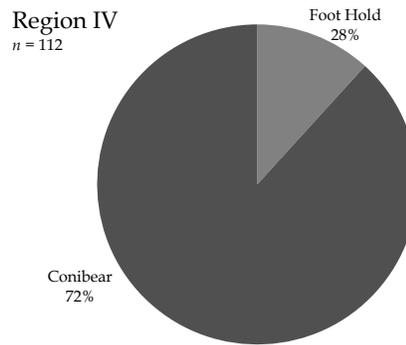
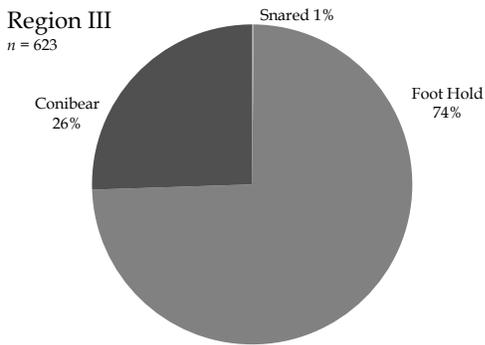
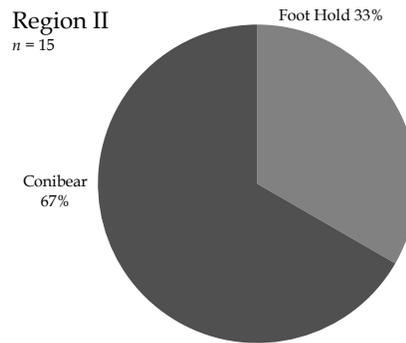
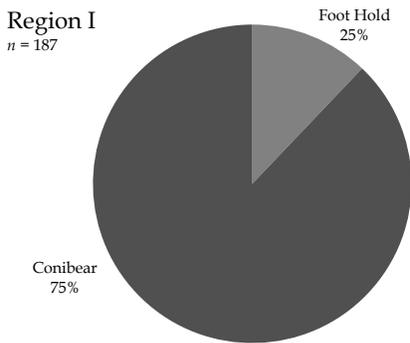
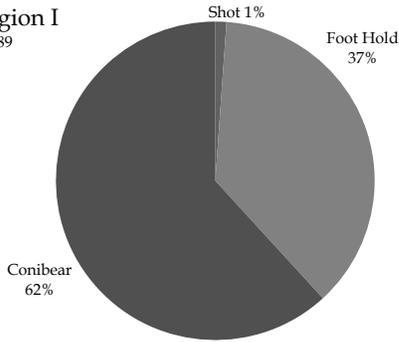


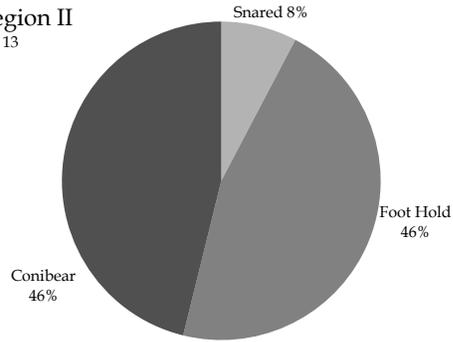
Figure 18. Methods trappers used to harvest marten in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

MINK

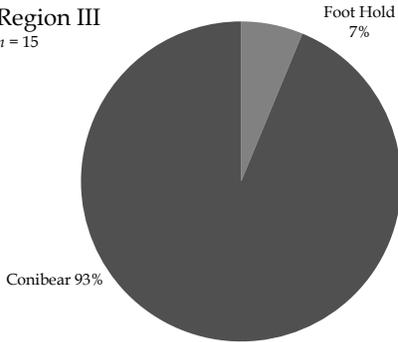
Region I
n = 89



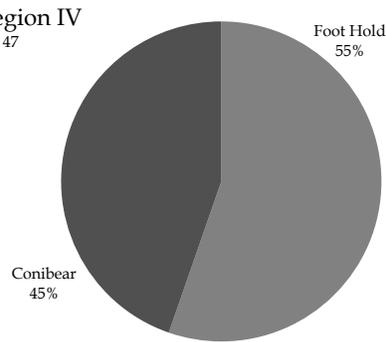
Region II
n = 13



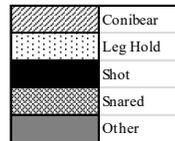
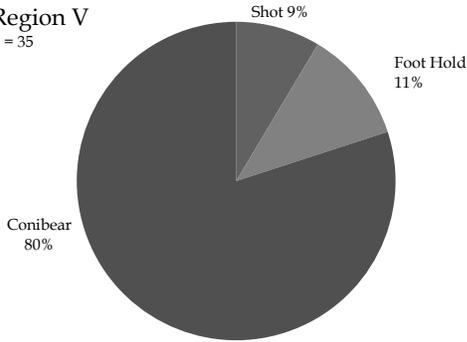
Region III
n = 15



Region IV
n = 47



Region V
n = 35



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

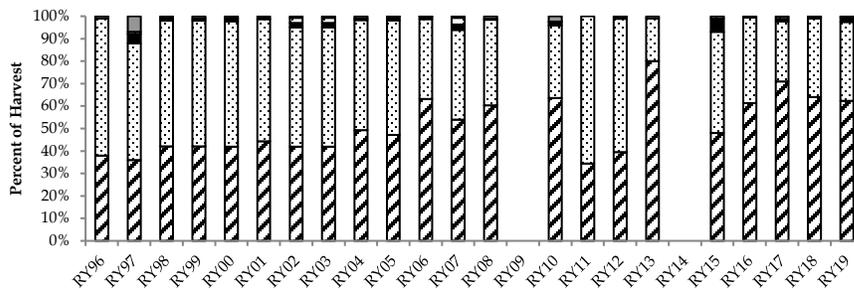


Figure 19. Methods trappers used to harvest mink in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

MUSKRAT

Region I
No harvest reported.

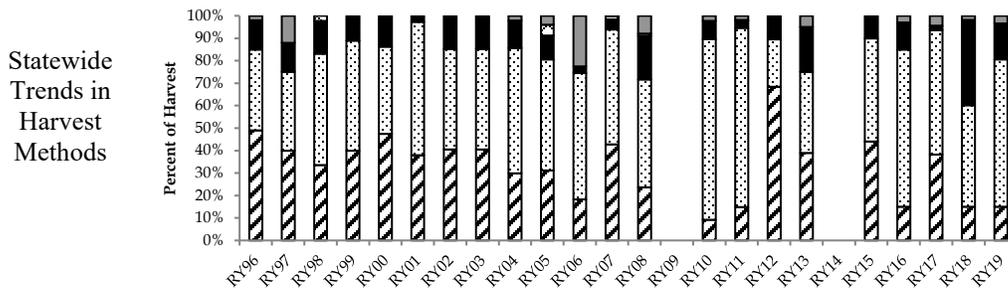
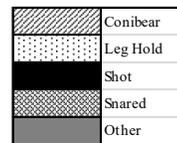
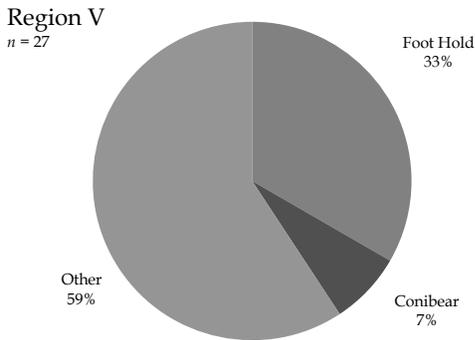
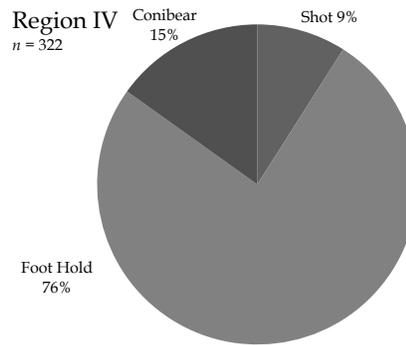
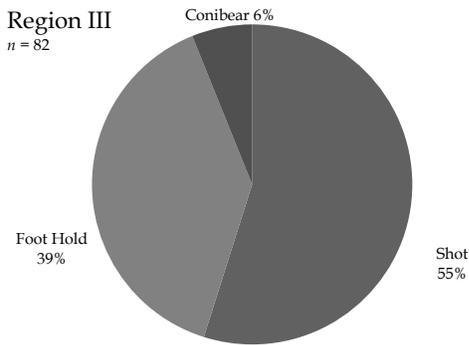
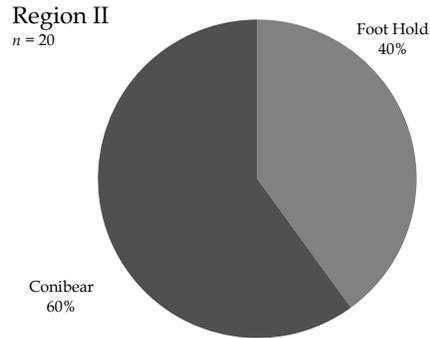
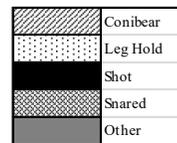
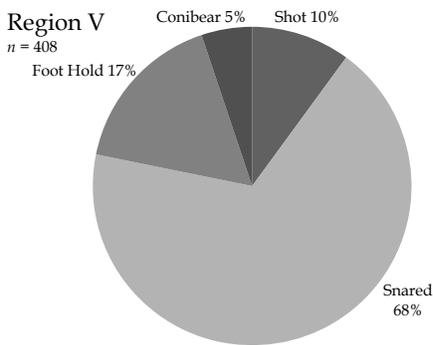
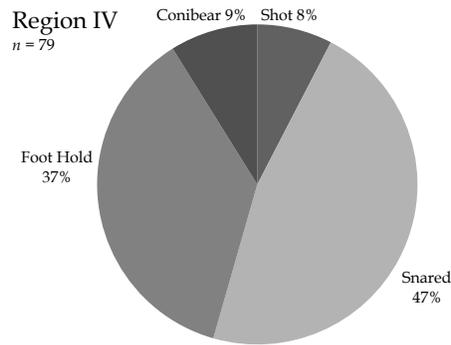
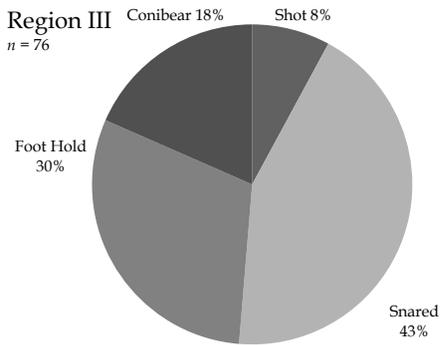
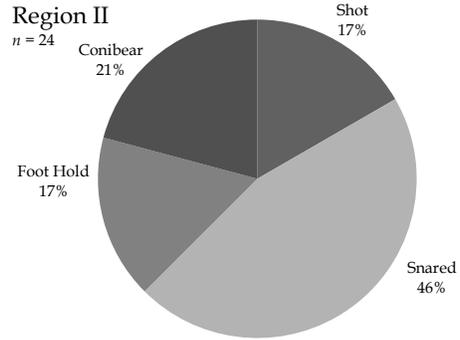


Figure 20. Methods trappers used to harvest muskrat in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

RED FOX

Region I
No harvest reported



Statewide Trends in All Fox Harvest Methods

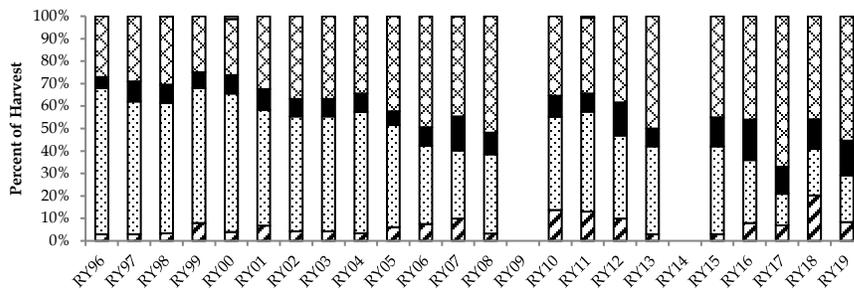


Figure 21. Methods trappers used to harvest red fox in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

RED SQUIRREL

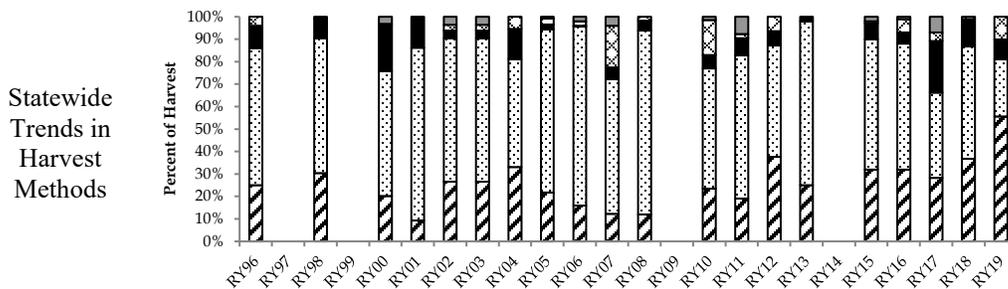
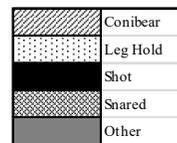
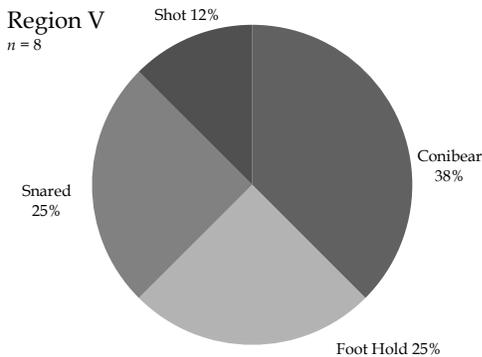
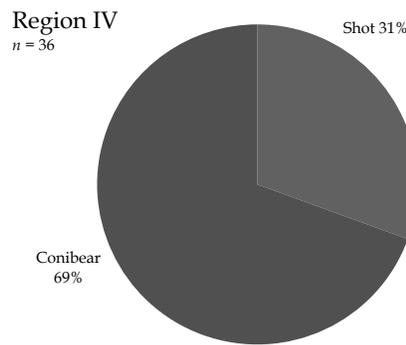
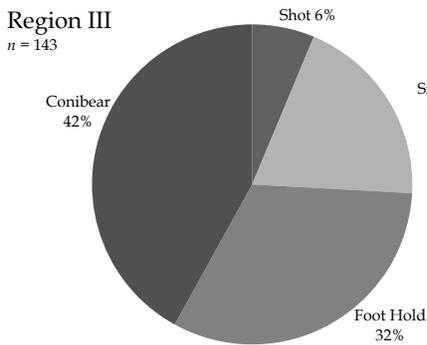
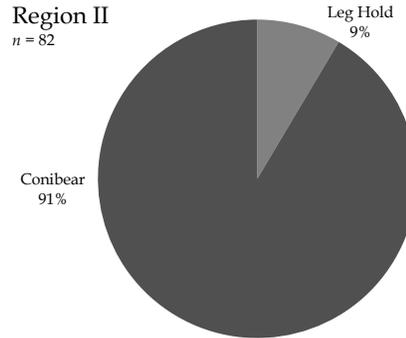
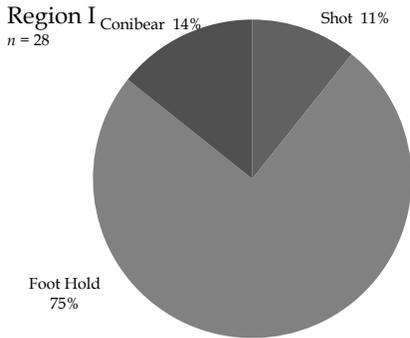
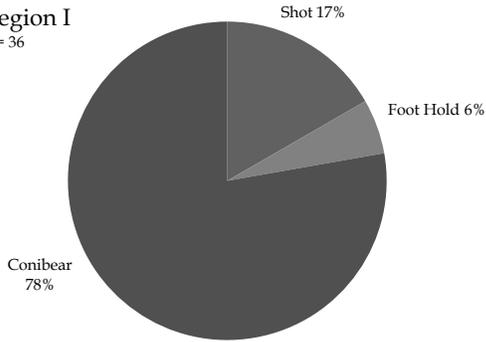


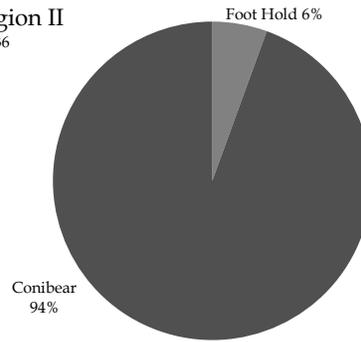
Figure 22. Methods trappers used to harvest red squirrel in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

RIVER OTTER

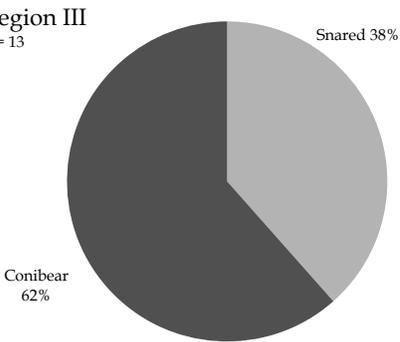
Region I
n = 36



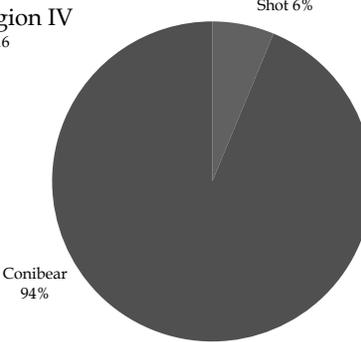
Region II
n = 36



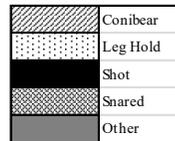
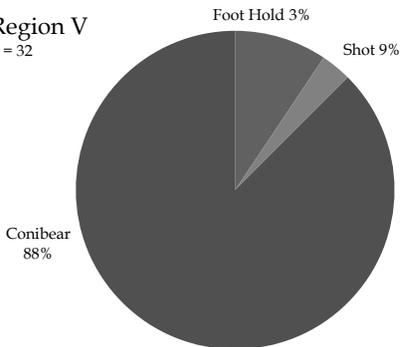
Region III
n = 13



Region IV
n = 16



Region V
n = 32



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

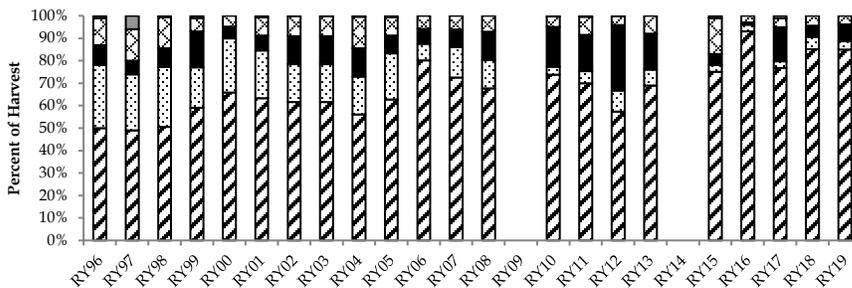
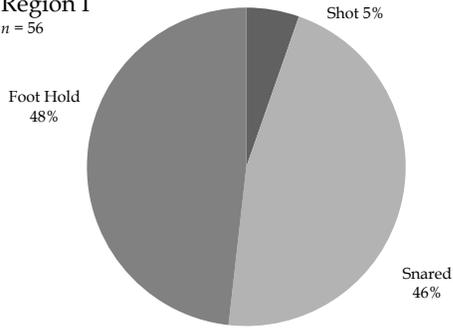


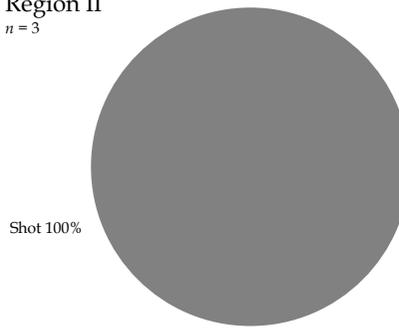
Figure 23. Methods trappers used to harvest river otter in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

WOLF

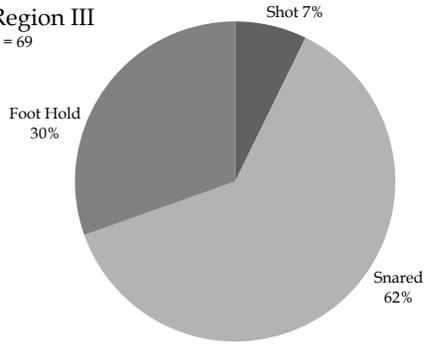
Region I
n = 56



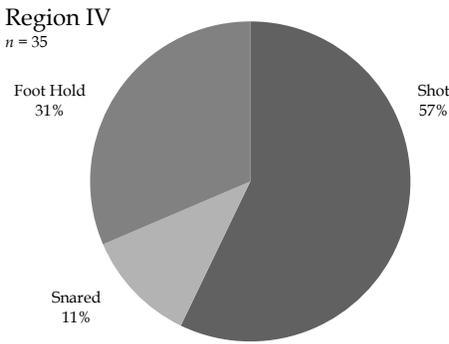
Region II
n = 3



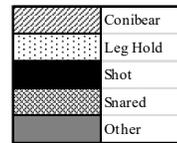
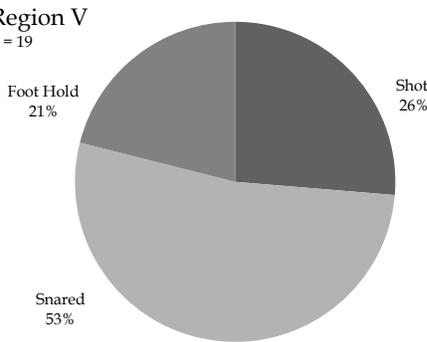
Region III
n = 69



Region IV
n = 35



Region V
n = 19



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

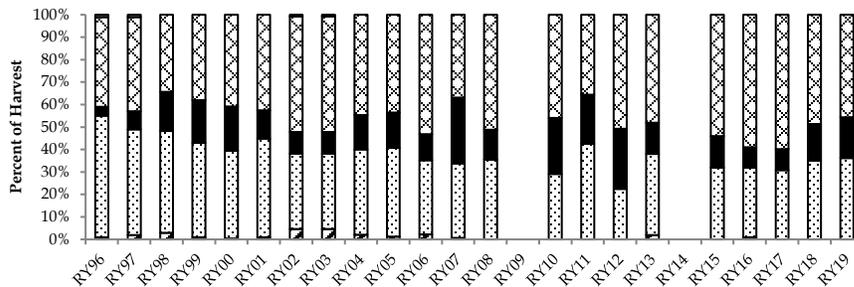
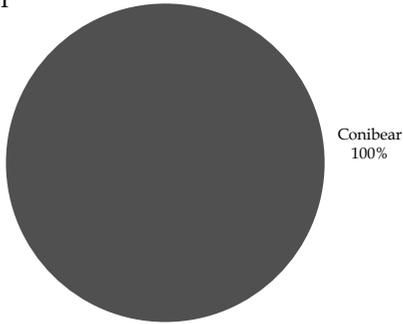


Figure 24. Methods trappers used to harvest wolf in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

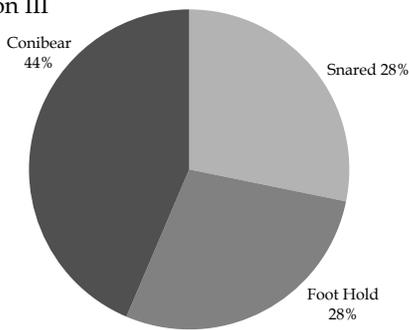
WOLVERINE

Region I
n = 1

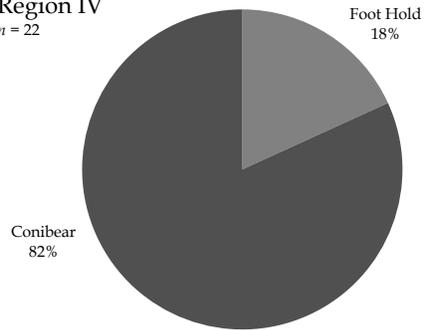


Region II
No harvest reported

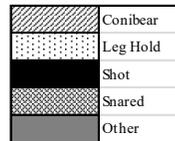
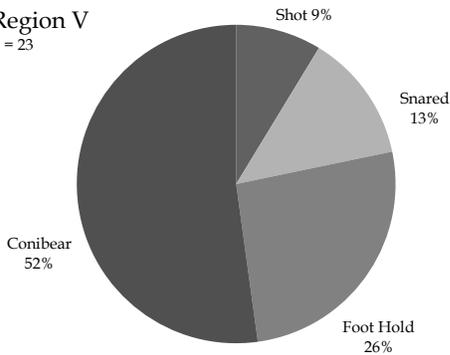
Region III
n = 39



Region IV
n = 22



Region V
n = 23



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

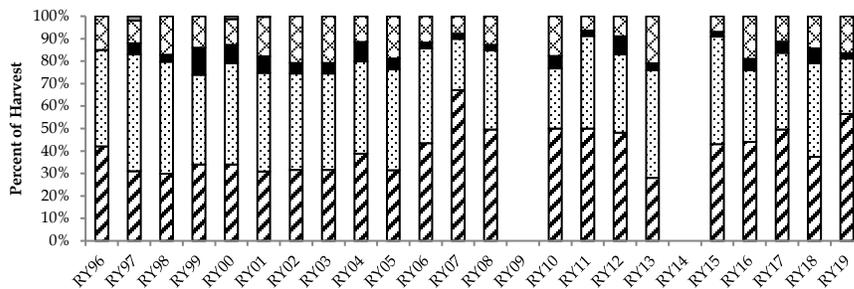


Figure 25. Methods trappers used to harvest wolverine in Alaska during regulatory year 2019.

Species Relative Abundance and Population Trends

The species relative abundance index is based on work done with snowshoe hares in Alberta, Canada by Christopher Brand and Lloyd Keith (1979).¹ They compared the responses to a trapper questionnaire with their estimates of hare densities based on their own fieldwork and found there was a good relationship between these 2 measures. They developed an index for the responses received from trappers on the questionnaire. A numerical value was assigned to each of 3 responses: 1 = scarce; 2 = common; and 3 = abundant. The value of the abundance index was derived from a mathematical equation that expressed the cumulative response value of trappers in a given region as a percentage of the range of possible values:

$$I = \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (R_i) - n \right) / 2n \right] \times 100$$

Where I = abundance index

R = numerical value (1 = scarce, 2 = common, 3 = abundant)

n = number of trappers reporting

The abundance index (I) ranged from 0% to 100%. Index values of 0–19% indicated animals were scarce, 20–50% indicated animals were common, and values greater than 50% indicated animals were abundant. In the following tables, we converted the index values to the appropriate category: scarce, common, or abundant.

We do not know if the same ranges of percentages are appropriate for animals in Alaska, as they were established for snowshoe hares in Alberta. However, this index does provide a way to generally compare trappers' interpretations of species abundance in a given area over time and can be very helpful when used in conjunction with other abundance indicators and sources of information.

The numerical trend index indicates if trappers felt animals were fewer, the same, or more numerous than they were the previous year. This index is slightly different than the relative abundance index. The trend index was calculated by assigning a 1 if the 'fewer' box was checked, 2 for the 'same,' and 3 for 'more' animals. The average was then calculated for all trappers in an area. Since we do not have an independent measure of trend to compare the index values to as we did for relative abundance, it is necessary to select arbitrary ranges of values to classify the average opinion of trappers in an area. For purposes of this report, an average trend value of <1.67 represents fewer (–), a value >2.33 represents more (+), and intermediate values represent no change (n/c) in trend.

¹ C. J. Brand and L. B. Keith. 1979. Lynx demography during a snowshoe hare decline in Alberta. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 43(4):827–849.

Relative abundance and numerical trend results for RY19 are presented in Table 5. Due to the relatively small sample size in RY19, we presented species relative abundance and trend at a regionwide level instead of the game management unit (GMU) level. Sample sizes were too small to provide useful data at a smaller geographic scale.



Photo by Ken Marsh

Table 5. Regionwide relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, regulatory year 2019.

Species	Region I		Region II		Region III		Region IV		Region V	
	Relative abundance <i>n</i> ^a = 27	Trend <i>n</i> = 26	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 32	Trend <i>n</i> = 30	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 78	Trend <i>n</i> = 75	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 68	Trend <i>n</i> = 64	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 24	Trend <i>n</i> = 25
<i>Furbearers:</i>										
Arctic fox	not present	- ^d	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	scarce	n/c ^b	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Fisher	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Lynx	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	+ ^c	common	+
Marten	common	-	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Mink	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red fox	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Red squirrel	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
River otter	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
<i>Prey:</i>										
Grouse	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Hare	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c
Mice/rodents	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c

^a *n* is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species.

^b n/c = no change in trend.

^c + = decrease in trend.

^d - = increase in trend.

Furbearer Sealing Records Summary

Sealing refers to the placement of an official marker or locking tag (seal) by an authorized department representative on an animal hide and/or skull. The sealing process may also involve recording biological information about the animal and the conditions under which it was taken, taking measurements, and collecting biological samples. Lynx, river otter, wolf, and wolverine are required to be sealed statewide. Marten, beaver, and fisher are required to be sealed only in certain GMUs. The harvest totals reported below are based on fur sealing records. Numbers reported here on Table 6 may differ from those in previous reports because additional sealing forms have been turned in.



Photo by Michael Druckery

Table 6. Reported harvest from regulatory year sealing records, Alaska, regulatory years (RY) 2014–2019.

Species	Region	RY14	RY15	RY16	RY17	RY18	RY19
Beaver ^a	I	398	322	223	219	277	226
	II	307	279	149	132	195	157
	III	49	22	3	9	4	8
	IV	579	446	464	376	360	391
	V	2	4	2	0	0	0
	Total:		1,335	1,073	841	736	836
Fisher ^b	I	6	2	0	5	5	1
	II	0	0	0	0	0	0
	III	0	0	0	0	0	0
	IV	0	0	0	0	0	0
	V	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total:		6	2	0	5	5
Lynx	I	1	0	3	1	16	25
	II	9	10	9	11	15	15
	III	980	1,045	1,382	2,384	2,608	1,783
	IV	128	116	188	367	647	993
	V	239	326	116	368	84	179
	Total:		1,357	1,497	1,698	3,131	3,370
Marten ^c	I	1,679	2,272	2,266	2,914	2,858	1381
	II	106	195	153	123	58	84
	III	0	57	38	0	0	0
	IV	310	671	195	470	209	275
	V	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Total:		2,095	3,197	2,652	3,507	3,125
River otter	I	388	447	294	292	288	237
	II	389	324	222	158	142	146
	III	71	123	61	53	66	64
	IV	220	204	164	183	149	104
	V	330	397	141	271	61	78
	Total:		1,398	1,495	882	957	706
Wolf	I	163	148	167	192	146	311
	II	51	46	46	40	24	34
	III	563	494	538	586	463	507
	IV	112	159	231	255	336	232
	V	130	198	163	137	53	84
	Total:		1,019	1,045	1,145	1,210	1,022
Wolverine	I	14	17	17	29	27	12
	II	16	41	36	27	31	28
	III	270	256	175	226	247	219
	IV	100	159	148	144	128	99
	V	115	136	129	65	62	106
	Total:		515	609	505	491	495

^a Beavers are required to be sealed in game management units (GMU) 1–11, 13–15, and 17.

^b Fishers are required to be sealed in GMUs 1–5.

^c Martens are required to be sealed in GMUs 1–7 and 14–16.

Furbearer Trapper Harvest Report

Only 4 of the 14 species defined as furbearers are required to be sealed throughout Alaska: lynx, river otter, wolf, and wolverine. Marten, beaver, and fisher are required to be sealed in some units, but not statewide. Table 7 shows the number of each species trappers reported harvesting in each subunit in the RY19 season. The letter Z means no subunit or none was specified.

It would be helpful to know what proportion of the total harvest the questionnaire response numbers represent. For species that require sealing, the number sealed represents our best information about the statewide harvest. Table 8 gives the harvest totals reported on the questionnaire as a percentage of the total number sealed.



Photo by Kyle Ferguson

Table 7. Furbearer harvest as reported on the 2019 trapper questionnaire, Alaska.

Region	Subunit ^a	<i>n</i>	Arctic fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine	Fisher	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red fox	Red squirrel	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine
I	1A	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	19	15	0	0	0	9	6	0
	1C	8	0	6	0	6	1	0	45	9	0	0	1	9	8	1
	1D	3	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1Z	6	0	7	0	6	0	0	6	30	0	0	0	7	4	0
	2Z	8	0	6	0	0	0	0	26	1	0	0	0	7	33	0
	3Z	6	1	8	4	13	0	0	28	65	0	0	3	6	3	0
	4Z	14	0	2	0	0	0	0	281	40	0	0	26	53	0	0
	5A	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
I Totals		52	1	34	10	25	1	0	410	161	0	0	30	91	54	1
II	6C	3	0	4	1	3	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	7Z	10	0	7	4	23	0	0	5	1	1	0	60	2	0	1
	8Z	7	0	4	0	17	0	0	0	2	0	19	0	16	0	0
	14C	5	0	11	3	0	0	0	0	1	35	0	30	0	0	0
	15A	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	4	1	0
	15B	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0
	15C	6	0	8	5	8	0	3	5	6	18	0	19	1	2	0
	15Z	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
II Totals		36	0	42	14	52	0	3	15	14	64	19	112	28	3	1
III	12Z	11	0	16	10	1	0	21	15	0	18	9	1	0	13	8
	19A	1	0	25	0	2	0	3	12	0	0	12	0	0	0	5
	19B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	19D	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	20A	17	0	51	16	2	0	51	82	11	2	5	4	4	12	5
	20B	26	0	18	1	2	0	23	260	7	0	11	23	0	4	1
	20C	4	0	20	2	7	0	21	42	4	0	7	15	0	1	4
	20D	14	0	6	15	3	0	43	21	2	0	13	63	4	11	2
	20E	4	0	0	4	0	0	65	100	0	0	5	0	0	9	6
	20F	3	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
	20Z	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1	0	0	0	0	4	1
	21B	3	0	9	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
	21Z	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
	24D	1	0	8	0	4	0	6	9	5	4	8	3	6	11	0
	25A	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
25B	1	0	0	0	3	0	22	55	0	0	1	25	0	0	2	

Region	Subunit ^a	<i>n</i>	Arctic fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine	Fisher	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red fox	Red squirrel	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine
	25C	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	44	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
	25D	4	0	1	0	1	0	11	30	0	0	1	0	0	5	5
	26Z	1	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
III	Totals	101	49	160	48	26	0	271	732	31	24	74	148	14	73	43
IV	9B	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
	9C	3	0	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	6	0
	9Z	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	11Z	4	1	0	1	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
	13A	15	14	1	1	26	0	65	14	4	0	18	0	5	3	7
	13B	9	0	19	9	3	0	36	31	3	0	8	6	0	1	2
	13C	3	0	0	5	0	0	36	11	3	4	7	0	7	9	2
	13D	6	0	4	2	6	0	56	8	0	0	5	2	0	7	0
	13E	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	13Z	10	2	17	3	9	0	67	19	1	1	4	2	0	1	11
	14A	15	6	6	11	7	0	7	10	26	253	6	10	3	0	0
	14B	5	0	6	1	0	0	1	8	4	5	4	0	1	0	1
	14E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	14Z	8	0	4	4	0	0	1	2	10	93	10	2	1	1	0
	16A	5	0	58	3	4	0	0	7	2	2	0	0	9	0	0
	16B	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
16Z	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
17C	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	
17Z	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	16	0	0	5	0	0	11	0	
IV	Totals	92	23	124	47	62	0	285	150	53	358	93	22	32	44	25
V	18Z	21	2	92	1	5	0	29	30	24	26	325	2	27	16	13
	22A	6	0	0	1	0	0	5	8	1	0	43	0	2	0	0
	22B	2	6	0	0	3	0	12	15	2	0	3	0	2	0	3
	22C	5	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	22	0	2	0	0
	22D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	23Z	9	0	1	0	56	0	52	190	5	1	35	0	0	3	6
V	Totals	43	8	97	2	65	0	98	243	36	27	428	2	33	19	22
Unknown		12	0	14	6	0	0	69	26	0	2	8	0	8	10	4
Statewide		336	81	471	127	230	1	726	1,576	295	475	622	314	206	203	96

Table 8. Trapper questionnaire reported harvest as a percent of total number sealed, by species and region where sealing was required, regulatory year (RY) 2019, Alaska.

Region	Percent (%) of RY19 species harvest reported in questionnaire							Average
	Beaver	Fisher	Lynx	Marten	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine	
I	15	100	0	30	38	17	8	30
II	27	–	20	18	19	9	4	16
III	–	–	15	–	22	14	20	18
IV	32	–	29	55	31	19	25	32
V	–	–	55	–	42	23	21	35
Statewide	–	–	24	–	33	17	21	–

Note: A dash indicates there was no sealed harvest or the number could not be calculated.

Commercial Transactions Involving Furs

AVERAGE PRICES PAID FOR RAW FURS

Prices published by the major fur auction houses (North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc.) during January–July in each of the previous 5 years were averaged to produce the prices in Table 9. Top prices were also from fur auctions. Unfortunately, 2019 data from the North American Fur Auction is no longer available and could, therefore, not be used in the data shown for 2019. “NA” is used when data was not available from either source. Prices for RY19 in Alaska were obtained from the 2020 March auction house prices.

Table 9. Average fur prices published by the North American Fur Auction (2015–2018) and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc., for the last 5 regulatory years (RY), 2015–2019.

Species	Average price (U.S. dollars)					Top Price RY19 (U.S.\$)
	RY15	RY16	RY17	RY18	RY19	
Arctic fox	39.91	36.39	33.11	34.10	NA	NA
Beaver	10.04	10.71	10.83	12.91	13.52	66.00
Coyote	39.87	47.67	57.12	77.18	75.52	108.33
Ermine	1.84	2.72	3.27	2.61	1.30	11.70
Fisher	35.62	49.61	43.84	32.16	NA	NA
Lynx	61.88	69.46	75.87	79.59	NA	NA
Marten	46.51	83.32	69.47	44.09	NA	NA
Mink (wild)	9.10	10.44	10.76	9.07	NA	NA
Muskrat	2.87	3.89	3.17	3.73	2.90	6.50
Red fox	16.53	17.85	18.81	14.50	19.90	30.00
Squirrel	0.38	0.70	0.81	0.53	0.80	1.00
River otter	20.00	28.79	28.68	22.15	NA	NA
Wolf	157.88	176.36	144.51	168.54	120.47	600.00
Wolverine	208.90	242.19	255.75	291.95	195.66	400.00

MINIMUM ESTIMATED FUR VALUE

Table 10 below summarizes the minimum total estimated value of furs trapped during RY19. Again, due to the lack of data availability from the North American Fur Auction, data presented below do not accurately portray the total values. The minimum total value was \$265,964.84, with wolf and wolverine accounting for more than two thirds of that total. This table is intended to provide an estimate of fur values in Alaska and does not represent fur revenue. Average fur auction prices were used to calculate fur value. For beaver, fisher, lynx, marten, river otter, wolf, and wolverine, we used number of furs sealed. That means beaver, fisher, and marten values are certainly underestimated because the table includes only animals harvested from the areas in the state where sealing is required. For species that were not sealed, the number of furs is the harvest reported by trappers on the questionnaire.

Table 10. Minimum value of furs harvested in Alaska, regulatory year 2019, by species.

Species	Total number sealed or reported	Average price (U.S.\$)	Minimum value (U.S.\$)
Arctic fox	81	NA	NA
Beaver	782	13.52	10,572.64
Coyote	127	75.52	9,591.46
Ermine	230	1.30	299.00
Fisher	1	NA	NA
Lynx	2,995	NA	NA
Marten	1,740	NA	NA
Mink	295	NA	NA
Muskrat	475	2.90	1,377.50
Red fox	622	19.90	12,377.80
Red squirrel	314	0.80	251.20
River otter	629	NA	NA
Wolf	1,168	120.47	140,709.00
Wolverine	464	195.66	90,786.24
Total minimum value			265,964.84



Photo: ADF&G Files

Fur Sealing Requirements

Lynx, river otter, wolf, or wolverine taken anywhere in the state, marten in GMUs 1–7 and 14–16, fisher in GMUs 1–5, and beaver taken in GMUs 1–11, 13–15, and 17 must be sealed by an authorized department representative. If you ship furs of these animals to a buyer or auction house out of state, the furs must be sealed before you ship them.

If there is no authorized sealer near you, contact the nearest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A list of area biologists is provided below. We can help you make arrangements to seal your furs. If you or someone you know wants to become a fur sealer, contact one of the regional fur sealing officers listed below.

- There are federal licenses and permits needed to ship within or outside the country. Please check with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if you intend to ship fur out of Alaska to another country, such as Canada. If you intend to ship a wolf, lynx, or river otter skin (raw or tanned) out of the country (for example from Alaska to a fur dealer in Canada) you must get a federal wildlife export permit (also called a CITES permit), a federal import/export license, and arrange for inspection of all furs by a federal agent.



Photo by Jesse Ross

Regional ADF&G Fur Sealing Officers

Region I (GMUs 1–5)

Paul Converse
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 110024
Juneau, AK 99811-0024
(907) 465-4354

Region II (GMUs 6, 7, 8, 14C and 15)

Erik Bollerud
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518
(907) 267-2357

Region III (GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21,
24, 25, and 26B,C)

Jesse Dunshie
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 459-7205

Region IV (GMUs 9, 10, 11, 13,
16, and 7)

Joel Holyoak
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1800 Glenn Hwy #4
Palmer, AK 99645
(907) 746-6396

Region V (GMUs 18, 22, 23, and 26A)

Vacant
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 1148
Nome, AK 99762
(907) 443-2271



Photo by Rafe Johnson

Area Biologists and Game Management Units

<p>GMU 1(A), 2 Ross Dorendorf (AAB: Tessa Hasbrouck) 2030 Sealevel Drive, Suite 205 KETCHIKAN, AK 99901 Phone: (907) 225-2475 Fax: (907) 225-2771</p>	<p>GMU 1 (B), 3 Frank Robbins (AAB: none) P.O. Box 667 PETERSBURG, AK 99833 Phone: (907) 772-5235 Fax: (907) 772-9336</p>	<p>GMU 4 Steve Bethune (AAB: none) 304 Lake Street Room 103 SITKA, AK 99835-7563 Phone: (907) 747-5449 Fax: (907) 747-6239</p>
<p>GMU 1(C), 1(D), 5 Roy Churchwell (AAB: Carl Koch) P.O. Box 110024 JUNEAU, AK 99811-0024 Phone: (907) 465-4266 Fax: (907) 465-4272</p>	<p>GMU 6 Charlotte Westing (AAB: none) P.O. Box 669 CORDOVA, AK 99574 Phone: (907) 424-3215 Fax: (907) 424-3235</p>	<p>GMU 7, 15 Nick Fowler (AAB: Jason Herreman) 34828 Kalifornsky Beach Rd Ste B SOLDOTNA, AK 99669-8367 Phone: (907) 260-2905 Fax: (907) 262-4709</p>
<p>GMU 8 Nate Svoboda (AAB: John Crye) 211 Mission Road KODIAK, AK 99615 Phone: (907) 486-1880 Fax: (907) 486-1869</p>	<p>GMU 9, 10 Dave Crowley (AAB: none) P.O. Box 37 KING SALMON, AK 99613 Phone: (907) 246-3340 Fax: (907) 246-3309</p>	<p>GMU 11, 13 Heidi Hatcher (AAB: Joelle Helper) P.O. Box 47 GLENNALLEN, AK 99588 Phone: (907) 822-3461 Fax: (907) 822-3811</p>
<p>GMU 12, 20(E) Jeff Gross (AAB: Jeff Wells) P.O. Box 355 TOK, AK 99780-0355 Phone: (907) 883-2971 Fax: (907) 883-2970</p>	<p>GMU 14(A), (B), 16 (A), (B) Tim Peltier (AAB: Chris Brockman) 1800 Glenn Hwy Suite 4 PALMER, AK 99645-6736 Phone: (907) 746-6327 Fax: (907) 746-6305</p>	<p>GMU 14(C) Dave Battle (AAB: Cory Stantorf) 333 Raspberry Road ANCHORAGE, AK 99518-1565 Phone: (907) 267-2185 Fax: (907) 267-2433</p>
<p>GMU 17 Bryan Reiley (AAB: none) P.O. Box 1030 DILLINGHAM, AK 99576 Phone: (907) 842-2334 Fax: (907) 842-5514</p>	<p>GMU 18 Patrick Jones (AAB: Keith Oster) P.O. Box 1467 BETHEL, AK 99559 Phone: (907) 543-2979 Fax: (907) 543-2021</p>	<p>GMU 19, 21 (A), (E) Josh Peirce (AAB: Jon Barton) P.O. Box 230 MCGRATH, AK 99627 Phone: (907) 524-3323 Fax: (907) 524-3324</p>
<p>GMU 20(A), (B), (C), (F), 25(C) Tony Hollis (AAB: Mark Nelson) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: (907) 459-7233 Fax: (907) 459-7332</p>	<p>GMU 20(D) Bob Schmidt (AAB: Clint Cooper) P.O. Box 605 DELTA JUNCTION, AK 99737 Phone: (907) 895-4484 Fax: (907) 895-4833</p>	<p>GMU 21(B), (C), (D), 24 Glenn Stout (AAB: Sara Longson) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: (907) 459-7218 Fax: (907) 459-7332</p>
<p>GMU 22 Bill Dunker (AAB: Sarah Germain) P.O. Box 1148 NOME, AK 99762 Phone: (907) 443-2271 Fax: (907) 443-5893</p>	<p>GMU 23 Christie Osburn(AAB: Vacant) P.O. Box 689 KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 Phone: (907) 442-1712 Fax: (907) 442-2420</p>	<p>GMU 25 (A), (B), (D), 26 (B), (C) Beth Lenart (AAB: Jason Caikoski) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: (907) 459-7242 Fax: (907) 459-7332</p>
<p>GMU 26 (A) Carmen Daggett (AAB: none) P.O. Box 1284 BARROW, AK 99723-1284 Phone: (907) 852-3464 Fax: (907) 852-3465</p>	<p>RI Reg Supvr – Tom Schumacher (907) 465-4359 RI Mgmt Coord – Richard Nelson (907) 465-4267</p>	<p>RII Reg Supvr – Cyndi Wardlow (907) 267-2177 RII Mgmt Coord – Jeff Selinger (907) 267-2529</p>
<p>RIII Reg Supvr – Darren Bruning (907) 459-7222 RIII Mgmt Coord – Vacant (907) 459-7381</p>	<p>RIV Reg Supvr – Gino DelFrate (907) 861-2123 RIV Mgmt Coord – Todd Rinaldi (907) 861-2105</p>	<p>RV Reg Supvr – Tony Gorn (907) 267-2421 RV Mgmt Coord –Phillip Perry (907) 443-8189</p>

Trapper Comments

We are looking for ways to improve the trapper questionnaire; please feel free to provide your suggestions. We are also interested in your ideas for trapping in Alaska. Below are responses trappers provided on the 2019 questionnaire to the following question: “Do you have any other comments or suggestions for ADF&G or the Board of Game on how trapping can be improved in Alaska?”²

REGION I

- Continue trapper education to young and new trappers - Keep rules clear and as black and white as possible. Some areas are embedded with exceptions which creates confusion, frustration, and can lead to conflict. - Help better promote trapping to the public. I truly enjoy trapping. Thank you for your efforts to manage our resources, our opportunities, and for some way of life.
- ADF&G is doing a fantastic job managing trapping in Southeast AK! This was a very poor year on our line. Exactly 1/4 as many marten as past 5-year average. Not sure why. In general, there seems to be more trapping effort around the Juneau area. That is a good thing assuming all participants are representing ethical trapping standards and are being responsible ambassadors for the activity. However, it would be so nice to have a resource for new trappers to consult before setting gear, to avoid inadvertently encroaching on another trapper’s line. Also, I think it would be a good idea for ADF&G to hand out "official" looking signs w/ the ADF&G logo for trappers to voluntarily hang at the beginning of a trapline. Thus, letting other users know there may be traps in the area and while identifying legality. Thanks to ADF&G and to all other area trappers that are being responsible and representing us well!
- ADFG wolf population estimate is too low. Trapping harvest (regardless of increased trapping pressure) clearly indicates substantially more wolves present than ADFG population estimate indicates.
- At February 27 moose meeting southeast area biologist and ADFG Education Tech came over and gave city meeting on moose hunt proposed changes and the dwindling moose population. When why population going down area biologist noted that it may be due to large canines in Gustavus forelands but he didn't have any information to back this up. In 2019 Question asked to Southeast Regional managers in letter about why we have researcher on forelands in the winter chasing wolves area with rotor aircraft and walking around traditional trapping area's. He noted it was for valuable info on wolves population predation. Guess researcher and area biologist don't confer by locals know and there is plenty of studies in the literature. Please leave wolves alone during winter in the few areas remote enough to stay away from Gustavus populace; stay of the forelands go into the park if it is that important. Please don't harrass trappers during the season there is statues in the State law that protect from this; didn't know there are waivers for this it is already known ungulates first than they with take what they can get.

² Note: Names and comments that may have identified someone were deleted.

- Bring back the Wrangell Fish and Game office so we can have furs sealed among other things.
- Collapse of fur market and auction houses meant I only trapped for pelts I personally wanted and damage control for Beaver.
- Continue the wolf trapping on POW. If anything, the wolves harvest last year suggests the population is way above predicted numbers.
- Continue to have a wolf season on Prince of Wales Island, unit 2. Contrary to current estimations there is still an abundance of them on the island, not to mention the surrounding islands (Dall Island, Long Island, etc.) I was born and raised on Prince of Wales, and saw more wolf sign this year than I have in my entire life, and continue to see high amounts of sign as the year goes on.
- Develop better relationships with POW wolf trappers.
- Don't penalize trappers that trapped pets that are not on leashes.
- Filled out for my deceased husband he passed on April 16, 2019.
- Hi!!!!
- I am not a trapper but occasionally purchase license in case the need arises.
- I believe the state is doing a great job over all in managing trapping opportunities. Here in management unit 2 there is a perceived notion that our wolf numbers are low, and that the prey base, mainly deer, are declining as well. Having been a year round resident of this unit for more than 15 years, I can assure you that is not the case. Over the past three years, I have noticed a marked increase in wolf activities throughout the unit, and deer numbers are strong as well. I would recommend management plans for wolf trapping return to normal season dates, so that a better trapper interaction can be assessed in the near future.
- I get a trappers license so I can go out with friends that do trap and help them with their trap lines. No comment or suggestion other than keep the tradition alive.
- I have not set a trap in decades. I buy a trapping License every year because I hope the state will put the money to good use for research and enforcement. I also buy a trapping License in case a target of opportunity such as a land otter or coyote ever should show up with a blindfold, cigarette and suicide note in front of me while trapping season is open. I like to keep my options open. I would hate to have to pass up an opportunity because I didn't have the license. I buy duck stamps every year but I haven't hunted ducks in years. Nevertheless, hope springs eternal...
- I live in Metlakatla where I hunt and trap on a tribal hunting permit. I have never trapped on state land but did buy a license last year which I never used.
- I live on POW and our ADFG has allowed the outside environmental groups to destroy our deer population by not giving us our regular wolf season the past 5 years. They held us to a very small quota over those years and the wolf population exploded. Between an uninhibited wolf population growth and a change in the black bear regulations our deer numbers have plummeted. The biologists are relying on a very inaccurate hair sample method for their population estimates and now we have these same environmental groups crying because we trapped 97% of the wolves in Unit 2. My question is why are we the

only area in Southeast to have these restrictions? All of this in their attempts to stop logging on the island. The F&G will bow to the outside influences for the wolves, just like the sea otters, and the residents will pay the price. So yes, my only comment is, give us our Unit 2 wolf season back, throw out that hair board sample method and start listening to the local residents who hunt and trap.

- I would like to see the bag limit removed from fisher. They are clearly increasing in both numbers and distribution. Trapping effort has not had a negative effect on that, apparently.
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the good work.
- Listen and give weight to trapper testimony for regulations, they care for the resource and spend a lot of time in their areas, their help can aid ADF&G paint a better picture of the resource for management especial in times of reduced budgets. With their feedback on animal populations along with science the AB can paint a good picture of what needs to happen.
- Lots of wolves left in the area and on Prince of Wales Island. I recommend continued trapping.
- Maybe a map of what areas are currently being trapped so new trappers know where is available?
- Moving the beaver season back to the 15th of May was a great improvement thank you.
- N/A.
- No.
- Overall ADFG does a good job, however Wolf issues in SE and lack of science based population estimates is concerning that this issue has gone political. Why limit wolves on Douglas island then limit the deer the residents can take? No science basis here. We had a good season, glad to be a trapper and support wildlife management with my license fees.
- Please let data drive the trapping limits for wolf on Prince of Wales. In years past, the number of wolves taken per trapping license was a reason to reduce the season. Wolves were taken in high numbers this year, signifying a strong population based on the earlier CPUE decision that limited the wolf harvest, and therefore the wolf harvest in POW should continue at a minimum, or have limits increased based on the high harvest.
- POW has a management problem with the scientific population estimate and the actual numbers of wolves. Unit 2 has a very high wolf population as documented by locals. ADF&G biologists need to work with the unit 2 residents with an open dialogue. Currently, the regional biologist does not consult with unit 2 trappers. He comes down once a year and tells the trappers on how great their science and does not license to the people who live on POW. Local knowledge of the record high wolf population goes against the current science with hairboards. ADF&G is not represented on Unit 2 and they are more concerned about upsetting conservation groups, then proper mangement of the Unit 2 wolf. Unit 2 has a record high population of wolves. Many people had success with trapping them because of the high abundance this year. Locals are currently using trail cameras to document the high abundance of wolves after the unit 2 season closed.

We need ADF&G to work with POW residents and manage the wolves for the betterment of the island.

- Require trap lines be registered with adfg, marked with trapper ID & a gps location. I often find active traps set in the woods after trapping season has ended and no identifying information with the traps.
- Sea Otters in Southeast are a huge problem and need to be thinned.
- The current method used by game and fish to estimate unit 2 wolf population is highly inaccurate and in no way reflects the actual wolf population which is much much higher than estimates This current method of hair boards seems to be at least somewhat politically motivated to promote a low estimate in order to decrease or eliminate trapping season in unit 2 for wolves I feel that unit 2 has been singled out and targeted as evidenced by no other units in Alaska being regulated this way I also feel that resident trappers in unit 2 are being discriminated against due to political agenda at both state and federal levels Wolf populations here in unit 2 are at a all time high as evidenced by the recent take of wolves in a shortened season with the vast majority taken on the lower half of the island Game and fish spokesmen immediately blamed over trapping/trappers as the reason for the record take when the true reason is a inaccurate population estimate by game and fish I currently have zero confidence that game and fish has any interest in a accurate population estimate.
- There are an over abundance of wolves on POW and Etolin Islands SE AK. Let's promote and support predator control in these areas.
- There is still time left this season, and I may get out. Maybe the department should wait until the season is over before sending out the survey.
- Time for a study on fisher vs marten habitat in SE AK. Potentially seems they are pushing marten out.
- Time limitation prevented any trapping this year again. Prices don't affect my efforts - just trap for outdoor experience and share the knowledge with my kids. Maybe next year!
- Transport wolfs to Baranof island.
- We need to have a longer wolf season in southeast Alaska. Fish and Game has no idea how many wolfs are here. They make regulations based on boards and we are losing our deer population because of it.
- We need to keep reducing the wolf population on Prince of Wales Island. The "estimated" numbers have been simply wrong the past few years. I don't want to get rid of wolfs, I want to get a balance back. The island residents rely on deer to live and the deer population is hurting. Winters have been good and it's my opinion wolfs are the biggest factor in the decline. I'm and avid hunter and have seen this with my own eyes.

REGION II

- 10 years of trapping is an estimate based on trapping in Alaska intermittently since I was a kid (now 43 years old). I continue to buy a trapping license annually to support ADF&G and show interest in trapping, while also keeping my options open for

opportunistically trapping each year, however I have not actively trapped in years. I do expect to start teaching my daughter about trapping in upcoming years.

- An observation: We used to have a significant number of ermine (seeing tracks and catching on average 5 a year). We haven't seen tracks or caught any in the last 2 years. We are using the same set ups in the same areas. We (my two kids and myself) run the trapline and do a lot of learning and enjoying the outdoors. They are both really interested in animals and the environment. Thank you for the work you guys do research trapping and wildlife trends.
- Any reason why we cannot use the aid of illumination to harvest furbearers at night in unit 8?
- Continue to encourage training opportunities. Was hoping to learn this year with my 15 yr old son, timing just did not work out.
- Couldn't get into the backcountry due to lack of snow and US forest service closed snow machine use in the area all of December and part of January.
- Did not trap here on Kodiak Island due to the weather, made for dangerous situations.
- Fight to keep it open, fun recreational sport for the winter for me and many others.
- For unit 16, align season for all aquatic furbearers (beaver, muskrat, otter). We often wait until Nov 10 due to concerns with otter and muskrat bycatch in our area, but this doesn't allow us to capitalize on beaver during the month of October prior to heavy ice and snow. It'd be great if otter and muskrat opened at the same time as beaver for ease of mind.
- Have the state clear winter pull offs so more area can be accessed and we are all not pushed into the same trails and locations. There is good calling and trapping areas if there was only a safe place to park a highway vehicle where you can start walking skiing or snowshoeing.
- I always purchase the hunt/fish/trap license because it provides the most money to ADF&G even though I'm not a trapper; I like to support ADF&G. Can't say I won't ever trap, but I have no equipment or knowledge of trapping.
- I am highly supportive of trapping in general, but think that trapping should be banned anywhere in the proximity of trails that have any public use. Lazy trappers catching dogs is unacceptable. Trappers should have to go out and make their own trapline trails away from public trails.
- I appreciate and am grateful for the privilege and opportunity to trap, but I am not a trapper.
- I buy a trapping license because I have friends that have trapped and just in case I need to help them I will be licensed.
- I buy a trapping license to help support the resource. Otherwise I'm not a trapper. Thanks.
- I buy fish/hunt/trap license every year with king stamp. Most years I don't trap. Some years I don't hunt or fish. I will keep supporting. Use the funds for a good cause!
- I buy the hunt-trap-sport fish license to support game management and conservation. I do hunt and fish a bit almost every year, but have never trapped outside of a merit badge or survival class. You guys have a challenging job managing habitat and game stocks with

competing public interests. I would like to see a bigger buffer around Denali parks to have a more robust wolf population that will make more money for the state from tourism and related support industries. Other than that aspect of the trapping landscape, keep up the good work!

- I do not trap but continue to purchase a trapping license every year in order to support the activity.
- I don't remember buying a trapping permit at all. Have not trapped in 40+ years.
- I have purchased a trapping license for the past few years, in case I do want to trap (the bundled package makes it affordable). But I have not trapped yet. The bundled license is a great deal, and makes it easy to be in compliance whenever I do start trapping :)
- I hope to do some trapping on the Kenai peninsula some day, not like I want to trap 50 animals, only 3 or 4. Couple nice pelts for the wall.
- I intended to trap this past year, but did not.
- I mainly get a trapping license so I can go out with my buddy on his trap line. He trapped for beaver this year and did well. I ride along and help out. We take the kids with us so they hopefully become interested and at a minimum have a respect for trapping.
- I mostly buy the trapping license so I can ground shot fur game that is required with a trapping license.
- I mostly support what you guys do and buy the whole license and maybe one day i will trap... I did go with someone last year trapping... Thanks for all that you all do for us and the kids of AK...
- I only buy a trapper license to harvest game that requires a trapping permit.
- I only buy my trapping license to support the cause and maybe someday I will trap.
- I only buy the trapping part of the License because it's more dollars in fishing games pocket.
- I only purchase a trapping license because it offers more opportunity with a rifle. I've actually never needed it.
- I only use my trapping license to allow me to shoot beaver with a firearm in unit 8. I have never set a trap line in Alaska.
- I purchase the license to support F&G.
- I purchase the trapping license to predator hunt.
- I suggest making a limit on wolverine units 7, 15, and 16. These units are easily accessible from Anchorage, Mat Valley and Kenai Peninsula people. As a low of a density animal the wolverine is I think it would help the overall population. Talking to trappers that use these areas say a lot more people and not many wolverine anymore. Almost nobody is making a living at trapping, its just a hobby to most. 1 or 2 limit would be fine. Thanks.
- I trap with a friend, otherwise probably wouldn't go.
- I want to learn so I buy one, but it is also to support ADF&G (dad formerly worked in Game). Thanks for all your work.

- I would like to see a mandate for better marked traps that occur near trails. In the Yukon territory, trappers receive a \$300 bounty for harvesting a wolf. I would like to see a bounty such as this implemented in Alaska (for trapping and hunting) in lieu of the department's current procedures for culling predators. A bounty would provide a great incentive for hunters and trappers in this state... particularly during an unprecedented time of job scarcity!
- I would like to trap and want to make sure that I have a license if the occasion presents itself. I am very novice when it comes to stuff like this so I am waiting find someone who will show me the ropes.
- I would prefer to have the opportunity to use footholds over snares during the October Coyote and Wolf season in Unit 15. Dry, dirt trapping conditions are more conducive to foothold trapping, and having the opportunity to pursue these animals on their fall patterns would be a great opportunity. Finally, I feel footholds in general would result in reduced by-catch versus snares, especially bears.
- Increase the availability of workshops to help educate the youth, or those new to Alaska, on what gear and methods work well for the animals we have available to trap.
- Increasing education with Trappers that they do not own public lands and they are not to interfere with other people's traps. Also, increasing education regarding not trapping on private property, even if it borders state lands.
- Keep fighting the feds for Alaska's rights! Thank you!!!
- Later marten season on Kenai due to late winter late and lack of snow.
- Let beaver season run with river otter season on Kodiak.
- Limit the number of sets per trapper in urban areas to help the furbearer populations and give opportunities to more trappers.
- Make it less burdensome with nonsense regulations and stronger penalties for people who harass or vandalize.
- Mandatory trapper education course, disallow sales of snares that are not "mooseless" (or at least have them labeled clearly that they will not break to release a moose). It's difficult to learn safe and ethical trapping in Alaska. Pre-made snares you can buy at 3 Bears, Sportsman's Warehouse, etc are NOT the type that breakaway to release a caught moose. New trappers buy these in good faith that since they are pre-made, they are the correct type we should be using. Without proper education, new trappers just don't know any better. Current trappers are typically not interested in teaching the new generation, as they are protective of their areas and their "tricks" to catch game. This is why I feel we need an extensive and detailed class that is required before a person can begin trapping.
- Maybe shortening the Marten season in areas that see too much pressure and dwindling populations. The lower Susitna valley seems to have very few Marten lately.
- Most of My trapping was for rodent (Beaver) and predator control when I worked for Utah Division of Wildlife Resources over 20 years ago. I purchase the Trappers permit in the case that an opportunity presents itself (maybe when I retire) but mostly to increase the matching funds for ADF&G to manage our herds and fisheries.
- NEED NAME TAGS ON TRAPS.

- No.
- No but thank you for asking.
- No but thank you for the opportunity to trap!
- No comment.
- No comments.
- No comments except, I appreciate the improved communication efforts via emails.
- No, I am a falconer (hi tim spivey) and get a trapping permit every year to support fish and game and can also hunt for furbearers.
- None.
- None.
- Nope.
- Not at this time.
- Not really, one of these days i will get out there.
- Nothing at this time.
- On the Kenai Peninsula there's just not any room for new trappers. Not sure if there's a fix though access is a huge issue. But again don't think there's a solution.
- Only purchased trapping license on the off chance I run into a furbearer while hunting. Do not trap.
- Only traded one beaver house for a week.
- Open the lynx season in 15 c. The hare population is way up. Lynx keep picking my rabbit snares before I can get. To them. Any update on the anchor river beaver situation would be good.
- Our otter season in Kodiak is one of the shortest in the state and since nearly all trapping is boat based in Kodiak, it's hard to get out to trap them in November, December and January when the days are shortest and weather is the worst for the year. February and March provide longer days and safer traveling and having some opportunity for otters in at least February like other areas would be helpful since we have relatively few furbearers in Kodiak and effort is extremely low in most areas.
- Place an annual fox limit of 20 on the Kodiak Road System. There are not enough available lands to support the pressure that we currently have on the resource. I bag and trapping here in the 80's when there was abundant fox and land was not tied up behind posted signs. Now the trappers outnumber the foxes in the few limited areas we have left

to us. It's rare to see a fox in some drainages these days. Some trappers here are known to run up to 200 snares and wanton waste is common along with an excess of non target animals being killed. Reducing the bag limit will help numbers stabilize somewhat and reduce the reckless practice of setting more snares than can be possibly checked in a week.

- Please do all in your power to keep the greenies from affecting our right to trap.
- Thank you for opportunity. It is very challenging to trap and a lot of fun.
- The fur prices were so low on fox and otters. Those are the main stay of my line. Let the critters grow. Plus there were family obligations.
- The main reason that I have not trapped in Alaska is that I have been unable to attend the required trapping course for the Kenai Wildlife Refuge, near my home. Unfortunately, the course has been offered at times when I have been working on the slope. I do trap as a non-resident at my IL farm on an annual basis when I visit there in the winter.
- The only reason I buy a trapping license is for the extended season it provides for hunting some species.
- Time to open lynx trapping on the Kenai again. Get rid of wildlife viewing areas and special regs on federal land such as the Kenai Moose Range/Skilak Lake areas.
- Unfortunately the Kenai peninsula is a small area. I trapped up north for many years and never saw another trapper and had no fear of losing traps or fur to thieves. Down here in every direction there were other trappers some nice and others bold face lying a**holes claiming to own the country and claiming to have trapped an area for years but when scouted the areas in the years past there was no one... other friendly trappers had similar issues with him pushing into their areas as well. Also the amount of people recreational snowmachining riding, ruining wolf sets and stealing traps is ridiculous and makes it nerve racking and takes the fun out of it. None of this is stuff you can help with I understand but still drives ya crazy.
- Use to trap as a kid just rabbits.
- Work with Leisnoi to allow trapping on their lands.

REGION III

- 1) If you can find ways to support or help develop in state markets for fur...that's an obvious winner. 2) Also...educate trappers on marten boxes (for nesting marten). There's been a fair amount of research done in Canada and some trappers there put nesting boxes along their lines. Similar recommendations could be made for trappers in Alaska. 3) Incentive wolf trapping rather than spending huge money with aerial programs. Like serious incentives! Would probably still be cheaper than aerial programs and if the incentives were truly big enough you WOULD get more trappers out there targeting wolves.
- A "trapper safety course" should be in place, just as there are hunter safety courses required to hunt.
- ADF&G is doing fine.

- All I can think of is to keep having DOT plow available pulloffs to the best of their ability. There's a good amount of relatively untrapped road-accessible land in the interior, the limiting factor is the ability to park along the highway in the winter.
- Allow aerial wolf cull in 20B North of Chatanika River.
- Allow keeping of incidental take of at least one animal.
- Allow night vision or thermals on firearms for legitimate trapping method.
- As for where I trap I don't think its anyone business but my Family.
- Been wanting to take up trapping but have not been able to. I keep getting a license in hopes that I find the time one day to actually enjoy running a trap line. Meanwhile, my license serves as a donation to help keep support hunting and fishing.
- Continue to protect our privilege to trap.
- Create more rails.
- Encourage trappers to recognize ethics and positive population standards.
- Enforce no trapping on public trails. I.e. compeau trail.
- Every thing seems fine.
- How the Government can improve trapping, Hmm. Maybe increase the price of licensing again and while your at it add some more regulations. Oh and while your at it take the remainder of our PFD.
- I appreciate the hard work of the ADFG folks.
- I do not have any comments or suggestions.
- I found a small walking line that I wanted to take my 8-year-old on this year. I was in the process of brushing it this year and with the high snow levels decided to do that after snow melt. We hope to get out this educational line next year.
- I got my trapping license to learn and help my buddy who is a seasoned trapper so as not to be potentially violating any law. I intend to renew my license and help him more this coming season but I will not personally have any traps and will not be harvesting anything for my use, just learning. Love AK Fish and Game and the Troopers, keep up the good work ya'll.
- I harvested a collared wolf under my trapping license on state land on March 9, the National Park service confiscated the wolf and wouldn't return the pelt and destroyed it during a necropsy. The park service should be held accountable for falsifying sealing documents and destroying a state resource. A clearer understanding of what a trappers rights are when harvesting a collared wolf, especially from Denali National Park, would be great!
- I harvested a cross fox, but it was not on the "animal selection" category. Allowing snow machine usage in the Yukon River Basin area would increase opportunities for trappers, but may also decrease the animal population, due to the increased number of trappers.
- I have never set a line. My observations were made while in the area I usually frequent. I'm more of an opportunist hunter. I hope this helps, thank you.

- I think lynx season should be extended to March 15th for 24D. Thank you for what you do on our behalf!
- I've purchased a trapper license out of convenience for the possibility of harvesting small furbearers by firearm in some districts. I believe I've purchased a trapper license for 3 years. I have not placed/set snares/traps this year (I have not trapped in previous years).
- I'll be back.
- Improve beaver management.
- In 20A- extend Wolverine season to close at the same time as lynx season (15 Mar). If a wolverine gets caught in a cat set after 28 Feb I can't keep it. Not going to try to release one, so then I have to turn it into the State. Or close lynx on 28 Feb to match wolverine.
- It's difficult to answer these questions. I've bought the permit to trap. I don't know how and i keep hoping I can tag along with a friend who will teach me... but haven't actively sought it out.
- Just a busy year, hoping to change that next year.
- Just hard to find accessible areas to trap without interference.
- Keep doing good work.
- Keep doing what you are doing and fighting for trapping rights.
- Keep up the good work. Thank you.
- Lynx season should be delayed until at least December 1st or later so hides will be prime when harvested. I see on the internet folks putting picture of Nov. caught Lynx that are not even prime then later complaining that Lynx prices are bad ? And the next year the same thing happens again and again? Why waste the resource?
- More trapper education and public education to preserve the right of responsible trapping for future generations.
- n/a.
- New to trapping and didn't make it out last year.
- No.
- No.
- No.
- No and thank you. It was my first year trapping and first winter in AK.
- No, but thank you for all that you do.
- No.
- No. Thank you and hope you have a wonderful day.
- None.
- None.
- Not at this time, you have always been helpful when I do have questions either on the phone, in the office or in the field. Thank you for always being helpful and friendly. Take care to all of you.

- Not at this time.
- Not at this time. My trapping partner got very sick this season so I worked on expanding my line and not trapping.
- Not currently.
- Not really. I have really slowed my trapping efforts over the last few years but the regulations and management of the furbearers in AK has never dictated this. I really like the idea of the questionnaire if not just for the parasite information alone. I've seen a decline in wolf hides & health due to lice & fleas, etc. here in the interior - some packs are horrible & others untouched. Thank you!
- Not unless you can control weather, fur prices or the cost of gas!!
- Quit listening to non-trappers and non-hunters when it comes to setting hunting and trapping regulations.
- Regulations on trappers setting up on your line. I had 2 lines stolen this year and had to start over again. It is getting frustrating. I cut in new trails every year, only to have them stolen from me the following year.
- saw some trapper infringement on a very old established line.
- Seemed to be an "off" year for just about everything...
- Stop landing on line and stilling furbearers.
- Tell me where the in town beaver slaying can occur, please.
- Thank you for all you do - I was lucky enough to participate in some trapping classes provided by the department this year in Fairbanks, and the instructor, Bob Hunter, was truly second to none - he is an extremely valuable resource to the public and the department.
- Thank you for providing the opportunity for comment.
- Thank you!
- Thanks for all you do in preserving our trapping heritage and this renewable resource.
- the lynx in my area have not peaked since 2009. Lynx were common in certain areas on my line but I have no idea what they are eating. No kittens were caught and no kitten tracks observed. Least amount of rabbits I have seen in 35 years. Very few grouse. Very few voles and shrews. No owls were seen or heard this season. no hawks were seen. Marten very spotty. No usual hotspots, just widely scattered. Very few moose, no caribou. the last two years there has been more wolverine sign. Beaver seem like they dropped off a few years back and haven't come back. the squirrel population has always been extremely abundant and constant for over 30 years but they seem like the last few years they are less. I have 4 species of grouse on my line, all have been very scarce for many years. very hungry country this year on the Black. I have no doubt that better days are coming for the country. hopefully the prey species will start building soon. A large fire burned over 100,000 acres to the north of me. I spent many days brushing trail. Trapline cabins are very important to the safety and welfare of trappers. Let the faceless bureaucracy know that at every opportunity. the perception is that the federal government is the enemy of anyone who uses public land. This should not be so. I don't know how to

change the mentality of our public servants. perhaps reminding them that that is what they are a start. I have always been impressed with the Fish and Game. you do a great job. The youth hunts are a great way to help our kids appreciate hunting. let me know if there is anything I can do to help. the board of game gave themselves a black eye with that ridiculous sheep law they past. if we need to help our sheep, lets do something about it. penalizing alaskans for hunting sheep is not helping sheep and the board knows that. to my knowledge, not one sheep has been saved and no one has been convicted on that law. Nothing proves that the law doesn't work more than that. Making everyone hunt sheep on opening day is a bad idea. I would gladly never harvest another sheep if I could see hunters after the meat and not just their horns.

REGION IV

- ADF&G can be more supportive toward user group conflicts. Trappers are a target for non trappers. We could use help to stop the anti trapper from taking more of our rights to harvest fur bearers. It appears that regardless of the underlying reason for conflict, the trapper is made out to be the villain even when he is 100% right in his actions. Certain user groups should not be able to force out another simply because they disagree with the means.
- ADFG and the BOG do a good job of managing trapping.
- Aligning all wolverine seasons and potentially lengthen the season. It is hard to trap wolverine in a lot of the ideal places in the dead of winter. Spring would allow for fair chase hunting as well trapping.
- Allow special permitting to allow for trapping in Anchorage municipality.
- Allow trapping cabins to be leased or built. I've discussed this problem and was shut down by DNR.
- BOG should not allow Municipalities to regulate trapping ie (Anchorage). Are they going to start managing Hunting and Fishing as well? Thanks.
- Consider providing more educational programs to educate people on trapping in Alaska and inform people of possible areas of opportunity to trap for specific species such as beaver and muskrat.
- Due to recent weather trends it has not been possible to trap early in the season due to no ice or snow. Extending marten season 1 month would allow for a realistic season in 16B. We did not target marten this year in order to let our very small recreational trap line have a break but a good amount of sign was observed.
- Education for trappers and other recreationalists. It's the only way to minimize conflict between those enjoying our great outdoors without penalizing one group over another. Would like to see more fur bearer studies conducted by ADF&G.
- Extend marten season in 14a 15 days, from December 31 to January 15.
- Extend marten season. We've seen terrible trapping conditions early in the season and better traveling conditions toward the end of marten season.
- Extend red fox season until the end of March.

- Far too many lynx in 14C for them to still be closed. I was unable to effectively target coyote because I was getting too many incidental lynx. Trying to only set live traps in order to be able to release the lynx severely limited my canine trapping this season. I suggest lynx be opened to trapping for the 2020/2021 season.
- First year trapping for me. Had a small trapline for weasels and mink. I had the line out most of the season, for weasels. I caught an abundance of shrews and voles. But didn't catch any fur animals. I shot a red Squirrel while hunting, not on my trap line.
- Get trappers off of main public trails.
- Hare population largest since trapping GMU 11. Little or no competition with other trappers this year, despite low observations and catch. Conditions did not appear to impede furbearer movement, for the most part. Appears caribou crossed Copper River much farther SE of my trapline in the fall and returned crossing SE again of my trapline.
- Have not done as much as I would like have had health issues the last 3 years did not catch anything going to try again next year.
- Haven't been trapping for quite a few years due to the job I have been working but I am close to retirement age and plan to trap again during my retirement.
- I always buy a Hunting, Fishing & Trapping license just in case I want to trap. I have lived in Alaska 59 years now but have not actually trapped ... Yet.
- I always get a trapping license just in case that I do trap.
- I buy a comprehensive combination hunting and fishing and trapping license to help support my fellow outdoorsman. One day I may learn and actually get into trapping. So I will continue to buy comprehensive licenses.
- I buy a trapping license to support the industry.
- I can't think of anything that needs to be improved at this time. I think the ADF&G is doing a good job. I will say that I feel the marten population is lower than normal. I'm not sure what can be done about that though. The Lynx and fox population is doing great in unit 13A right now. The wolf population seems lower than last year, but that is not a bad thing in my opinion. The moose population is going up and that is a good thing for local residents. I just hope we don't see an increase of coyotes and a decrease of fox as a result of the decreasing wolves. I also wish there were more wolverines in my area, but I don't believe there is anything that can be done about this. I feel that the habitat is not the greatest in that area for wolverines. I would just like to see more wolverines is all.
- I get my license because I want to try but I haven't yet. One day I will though.
- I have no issues with the trapping regulations. I am just usually too busy with work these days to be able to commit the time to trapping but I try to buy a trapping license every year partly to support the infrastructure and partly in case I happen into a situation I want to be licensed and prepared to take advantage of the moment.
- I have purchased a trapping license a few years, as someday when time permits I may trap in the future.
- I hope the Governor supports a strong ADFG budget for trapping research and management.

- I hope to trap more, but mainly I just try to support adfg. There isn't a large population of furbearers where I live.
- I just trapped beaver that was flooding hunting property.
- I NEED TO WORK LESS AND PLAY AND TRAP MORE !!!! MORE OF A PERSONAL / TIME ISSUE LOL.
- I think some sort of regulations about marking sets in city limits, or stopping trapping in cities. In Dillingham I know of two dogs that were caught in city limits and it reflects very poorly on trappers. Interactions like this give fuel to anti trapping groups. I don't understand how people think it is a good Idea to put leg holds, conibears and snares in boat harbors and along trails where people walk with their dogs. anyways, otherwise the trapping is great, I didn't have much time this winter. thank you.
- I think trapping should be regulated more, and trap lines should have to be registered.
- I was too busy with work.
- I would like to see a harvest report system similar to salmon permits. For example, if you intend to harvest marten then before the season starts you obtain a marten harvest report card (like a harvest ticket) from ADFG. You keep a running tally throughout the season of all the marten you caught, with month and location. You're required to report at the end of the season, even if it's "did not harvest" with some basic info on how much effort you put out there that season. One for each species would be available, and if you get one you have to report on it. This would give ADFG better data on harvest and intent, rather than relying on a voluntary survey. It wouldn't be any different from what's required for harvest tickets or for salmon permits (get a permit, keep a running tally, turn it in at the end of the season).
- I'm not sure why sealing is necessary, I do understand the CITES for Otter and Cats.
- If you are trapping an area, you should be 1 mile from any resident or dwelling. Just like bear hunting!
- Just keep up with new ways of estimating the population. Thanks.
- Lengthen weasel season to February, as they are more abundant and harder to catch than the season would indicate.
- Longer season.
- Longer season possibly.
- Make more copies of Alaska Guide to Fur Handling available for purchase or distribution. Either via DVD or web streaming video.
- Make trapper education mandatory for anyone initially buying a trappers lic who has moved to Alaska.
- Make Trapping education mandatory for any first time licensees.
- No.
- No comments. I just purchase the license "just in case". Thanks.
- No, I am happy with ADFG in regard to trapping and I appreciate the efforts provided for trappers to keep our heritage going.

- None.
- None at this time.
- Nope.
- Nope.
- Nope.
- Not at this time.
- Not at this time.
- Not at this time, but you should send one of these out for the Hunting permit drawing system.
- Not many people trap anymore, at least in my area. Prices are low for the work involved and there are alternatives to fur for many of the traditional uses. I appreciate having the opportunity to try catching a wolf. Thank you for the time and effort put into Alaskas wildlife management.
- Not really. Thanks for what you do.
- Nothing on improvement. Reason for decreased trapping effort was out of state travel, extremely high snow levels in the area.
- Open beaver trapping season in 14a/14b before November 10th such as unit 16 where beaver trapping opens Sept. 25th. In Willow (my home and trapline), the water is frozen by Nov. 10th every year leaving no opportunity for fall open water beaver trapping. I appreciate Alaska and the opportunity to trap!
- Open the Season Nov. 1 and close March 15. Then most of the standing water will still be open for a week or two. I trapped in Idaho for many years and it started on Oct. 10 which was a little early some years but by the end of Oct. everything was pretty Prime. Please provide some signs that can be ordered online that we can display alerting the public that there is trapping going on in the area.
- Start season later on all species especially Lynx to prime and color up better. Extend season on all species especially wolverine lynx. Winters have changed the last 10 years starting later and lasting longer.
- The 2019 aerial attack on the Wolves in my area. Was a good reason why I only caught 2 it changed The way they run my trails and the numbers of the Pack was down. There was no need for that. Last season every blue bird day I had aerial wolf hunters flying over dogging the wolves in my area. Seems like a waste of my time as a Trapper trying to catch something that's being chased.
- The aerial wolf hunting in unit 13 during 2019 and 2020 has eliminated wolves on my traplines.
- To continue to fight for rights of trappers on established trapping trails. Not allowing trappers to be kicked from then due to people deciding those trails are now hiking only trails.
- Trapping beaver with firearms has been a good improvement in unit 16.

- Unfortunately, I did not get an opportunity to set traps this year. Hopefully, I'll be able to do some this coming season.

REGION V

- A lot less animals each year. Seems like the numbers are dropping fast. Caribou have dropped to dangerously low numbers. Should close caribou hunting for a couple years so they can rebound.
- Allow some animals such as wolverine and lynx hunting season longer than trapping season like wolf trapping/shooting.
- Education about the trade to common people to help them understand the role we play and why it's traditional.
- Education classes and resources for young trappers in the villages/rural Alaska
- Extend the season slightly to end of April. Season ended prior to being able to drive farther from town and target animals such as Lynx, Wolverine, Wolf etc. I do not have access to snowmachine to travel and snow conditions were not the greatest.
- Get peta out of alaska!
- I had fun trapping as a kid in WI. Plan to trap more in Alaska in the future.
- I haven't trapped this year because I attended college at Colorado Christian University. I do plan to trap once I get done with school. I mostly trap beaver, but have trapped fox as well.
- I've never trapped before.
- No.
- No.
- No.
- No.
- No improvements.
- No improvements needed.
- None at this time.
- Nope.
- Not at this time.
- Not at this time.
- Push the federal government to start allowing trapping cabin permits to be accepted again.
- Thanks again for a great questionnaire! The 2019-2020 trapping season was a great opportunity in northwest Alaska. Cold weather, little snow, and abundant wolverine and lynx. Unfortunately, my trapping effort was less than normal and I did not take advantage of the opportunity. Caribou stayed further north and as a result, I didn't see a wolf track

this winter. Something new as far as I know, a coyote was shot this winter in Unit 22. Hopefully, that is just a single occurrence and not the new norm.



Photo: ADF&G Files

Author's Note

I cannot thank ADF&G Information Services and our Division of Wildlife Conservation lead webmaster enough for their efforts and assistance in perfecting the online version of the questionnaire, scanning and compiling data, and running some of the analyses for this 2019 report.

I would also like to extend my thanks to everyone responding to the questionnaire, either via online or paper responses. Though less invitations to participate in the survey were sent out, our response percentage nearly doubled compared to that of 2018. I hope we can continue to improve the questionnaire in a way that will lead to an increased response rate and more valuable information to those utilizing this report. For many of the species involved in this report, you are our primary source of knowledge. We use your responses to determine what is happening with the furbearers to better manage those populations for future generations to enjoy. Please continue to respond to the questionnaire in the future and encourage others to do the same. If you know of anyone wanting to receive future questionnaires, please have them contact me by phone or email (see below).

Lastly, I want to extend a special thanks to the trappers who provided pictures.³ It is important to document your efforts, especially to help pass along proper techniques to the next generation of trappers in Alaska, and I greatly appreciate your willingness to share those experiences with me and with other trappers.

Thank you and good luck this season!

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Photo by Bill Brophy

³ If you submit a photo of someone other than yourself, please ensure you have received that person's permission to utilize the photo. If a child is in the photo, please ensure that the parents/guardian have authorized the use of the photo.

