

GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT 9 PROPOSALS

Proposals 125 - 135

PROPOSAL 125

Public

Effect of Proposal

Change Tier II season dates for portion of Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (NAP) to increase hunting opportunity in Unit 9.

Recommendation

- Support amended season dates
- Neutral on extension to entire range

Lake Iliamna AC:

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

No Recommendation

Support (8-0)

Proposed Changes

Current Regulations:

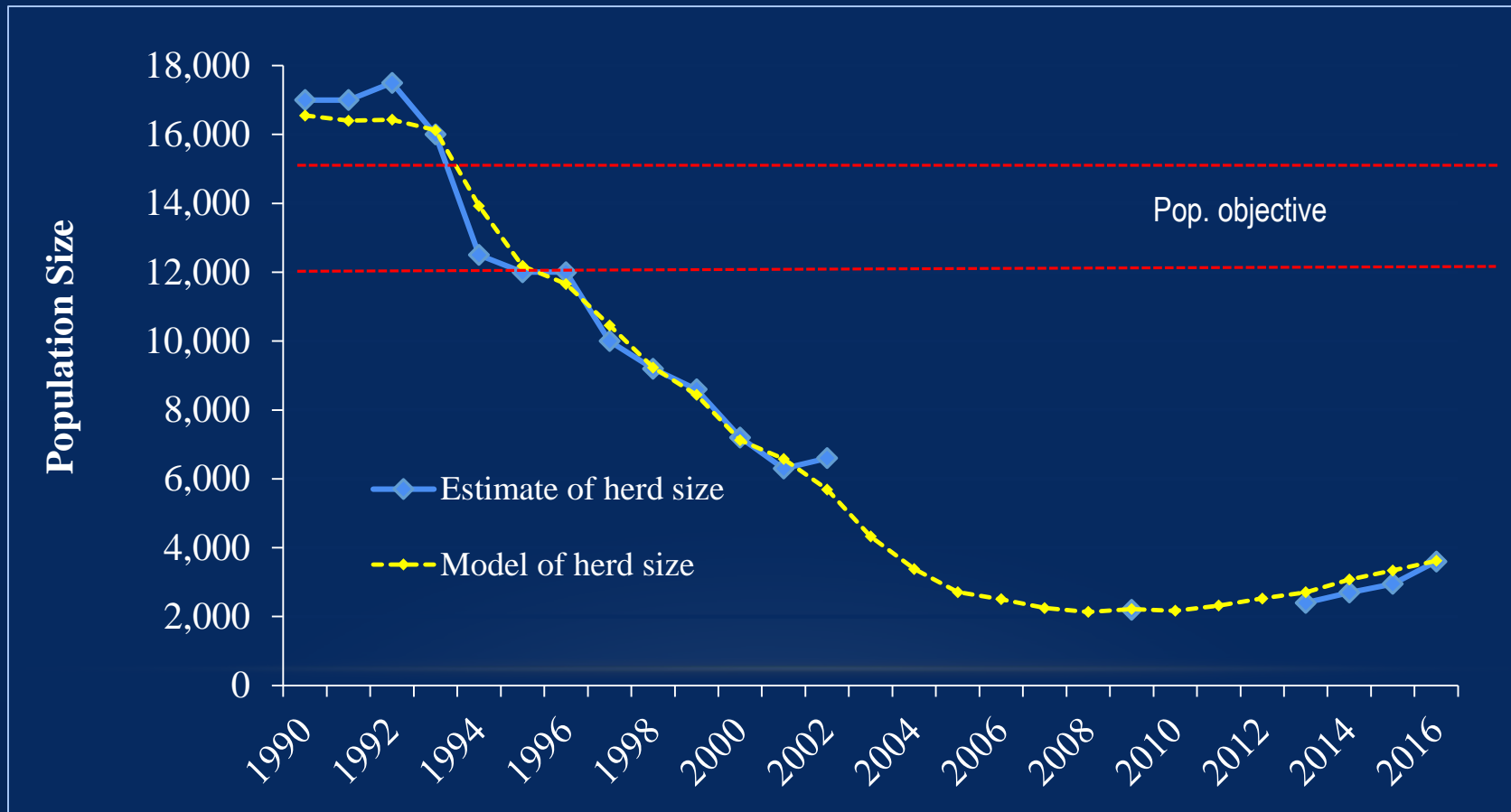
Unit 9C	Aug 10 – Sep 20 Nov 1 – Feb 28	1 caribou/TC505
Unit 9E	Aug 10 – Sep 20 Nov 1 – Apr 30	1 caribou/TC505

Proposed Regulations:

Unit 9C	Aug 10 – Sep 20 Nov 1 – Feb 28	1 caribou/TC505
Unit 9E, Ugashik and Dago drainages only	Sep 1 – Oct 10 Nov 1 – Apr 30	1 caribou/TC505
Remainder Unit 9E	Aug 10 – Sep 20 Nov 1 – Apr 30	1 caribou/TC505

Background

- The NAP continues to recover from lows during the mid-2000s to a current estimate of approximately 3,600 animals.
- The department opened a Tier II drawing hunt in 2016 for subsistence hunters.
 - ANS is 1,200 caribou

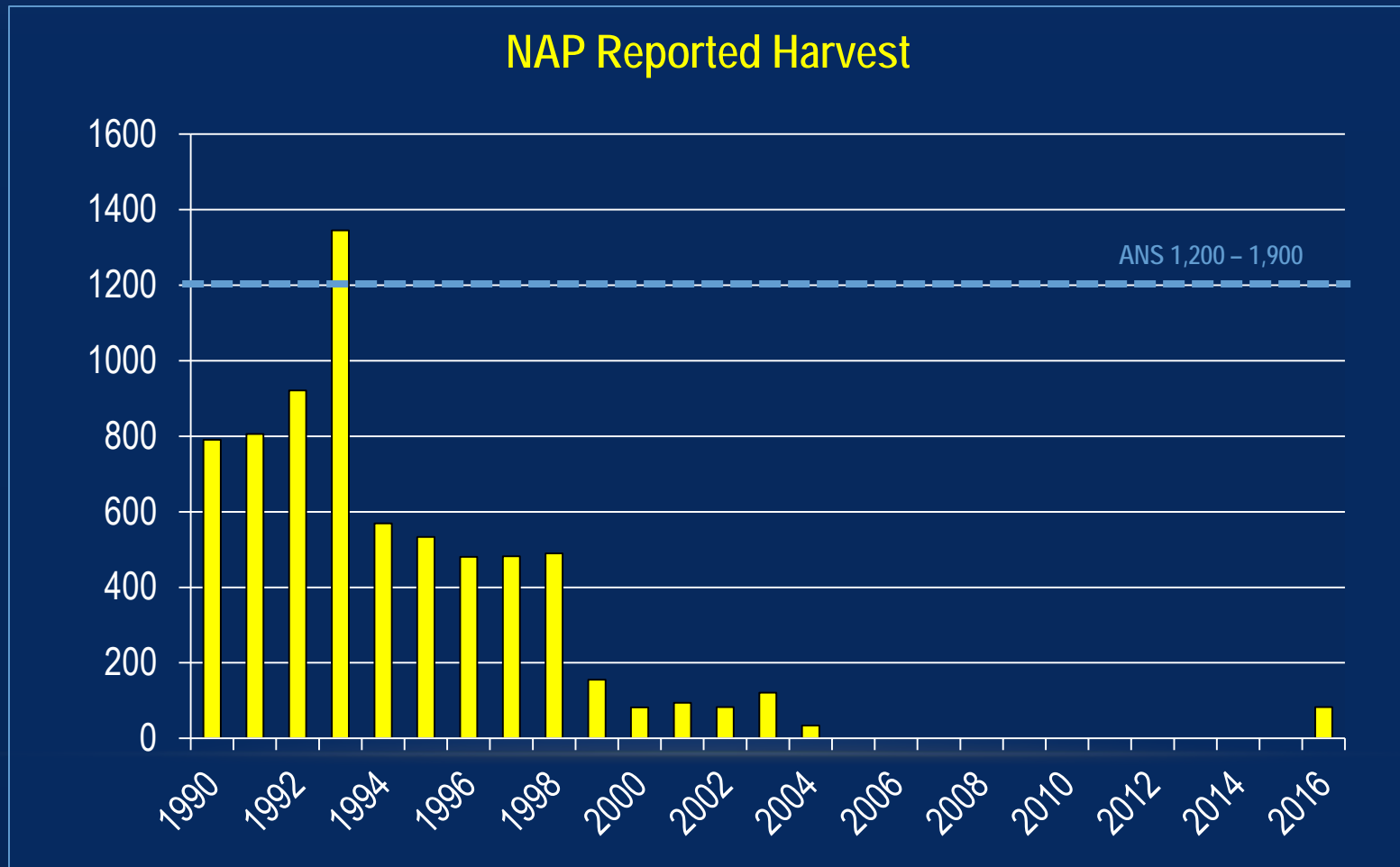


Background (continued)

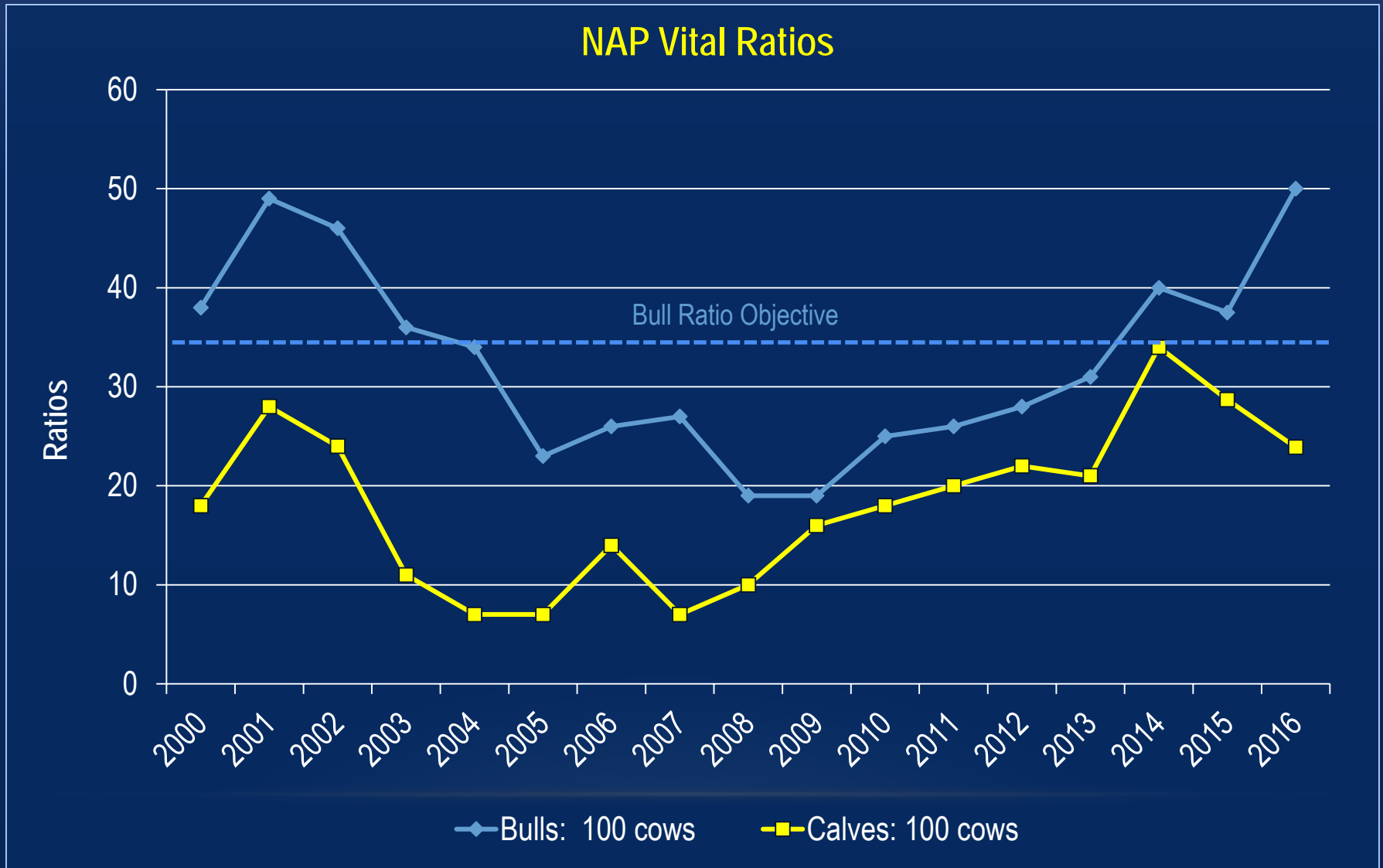
- Reported harvest was 83 caribou of 200 permits issued in RY16.
- Caribou tend to remain far inland to Bering Sea coastal villages until after the current fall season has closed.
- The department has issued emergency orders to extend the fall season during the last two years.
- The population can currently sustain a harvest up to an estimated surplus of 150 including bulls and cow harvest (approximately 4% of population).
 - Allow continued population increase.
 - Potential additional harvest is not a biological concern.

Proposal 125

- Hunting was restricted in 1994 and 1999 to reduce harvest.
- Hunting was closed in 2005.



Proposal 125



Proposed Changes

Proposed Regulations:

Unit 9C	Aug 10 – Sep 20 Nov 1 – Feb 28	1 caribou
Unit 9E, Ugashik and Dago drainages only	Sep 1 – Oct 10 Nov 1 – Apr 30	1 caribou/TC505
Remainder Unit 9E	Aug 10 – Sep 20 Nov 1 – Apr 30	1 caribou/TC505

AMENDMENTS proposed by ADF&G:

Unit 9C	Aug 10 – Oct 10 Nov 1 – Feb 28	1 caribou/TC505
Unit 9E	Aug 10 – Oct 10 Nov 1 – Apr 30	1 caribou/TC505

PROPOSAL 125

Public

Effect of Proposal

Change Tier II season dates for portion of Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (NAP) to increase hunting opportunity in Unit 9.

Recommendation

- Support amended season dates
- Neutral on extension to entire range

Lake Iliamna AC:

No recommendation

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

Support (8-0)

PROPOSAL 126

ADF&G

Effect of Proposal

Provide the department with the means to proactively manage the growing Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAP) by increasing harvest commensurate with population levels.

Recommendation

Support

Lake Iliamna AC:

No Recommendation

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

Support (8-0)

Proposed Changes

Current Regulations

Residents only:

- If the harvestable portion is 99 or less → 1 caribou by Tier II.
- If the harvestable portion is greater than 99 and less than 151 → 1 caribou by registration permit.

Residents and nonresidents:

If the harvestable portion is greater than 150: 1 caribou (unspecified hunt type).

Proposed Regulations (in addition to above)

Residents and nonresidents:

- If the harvestable portion is greater than 150 and less than 249: 2 caribou.
- If the harvestable portion is greater than 250 and less than 449: 3 caribou.
- If the harvestable portion is greater than 450 and less than 549: 4 caribou.
- If the harvestable portion is greater than 550: 5 caribou.

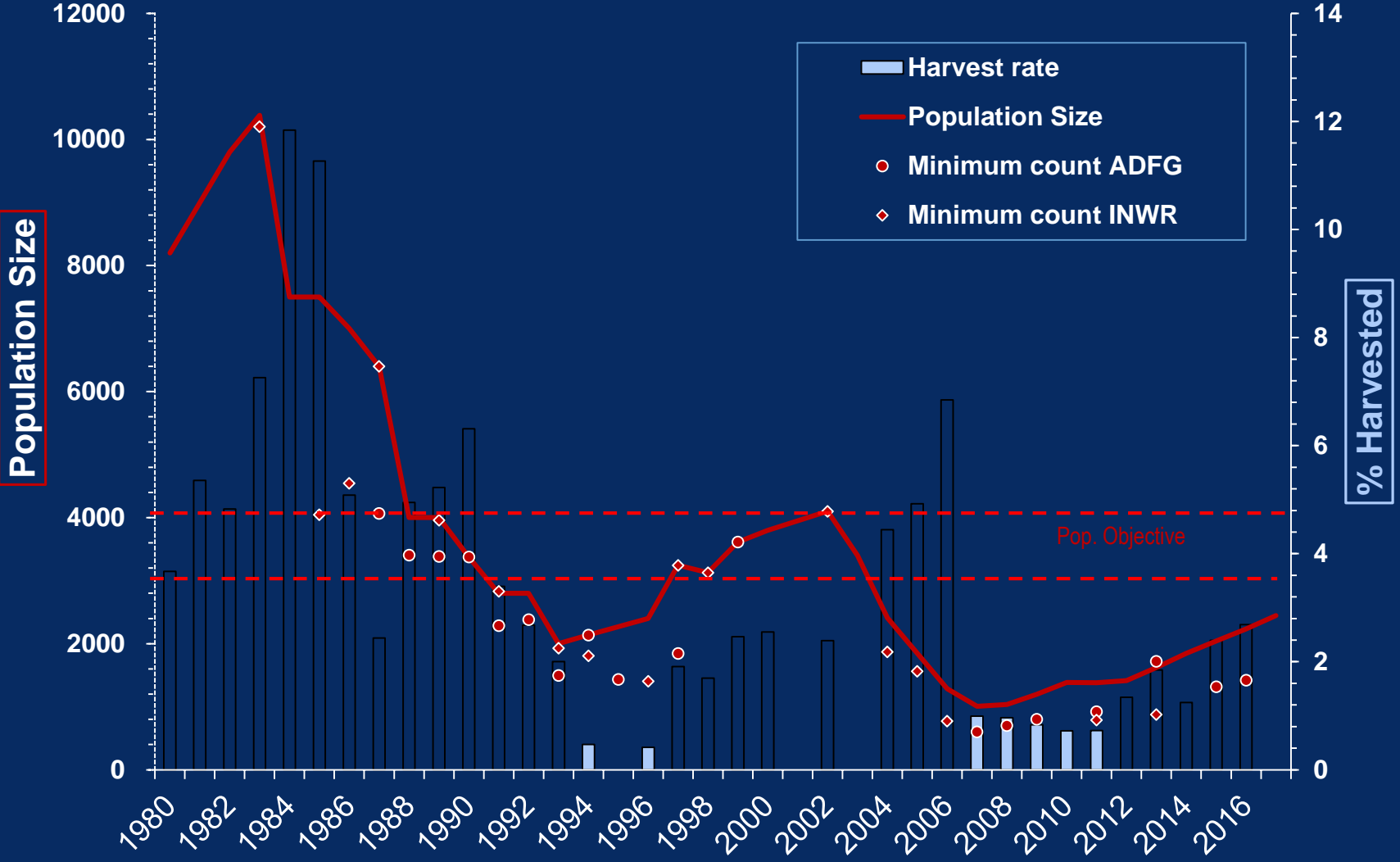
Background

- SAP began unexpected decline during 2000s.
 - Hunting restricted and ultimately closed by 2008.
- Caribou population increasing since IM wolf removal program in RY2007–08.
 - Exceeded 2,500 caribou (objective is 3,000 – 4,000).
 - Minimum counts and model-based prediction of population size.
- High bull and calf ratios (49 and 38 per 100 cows, respectively 2016).

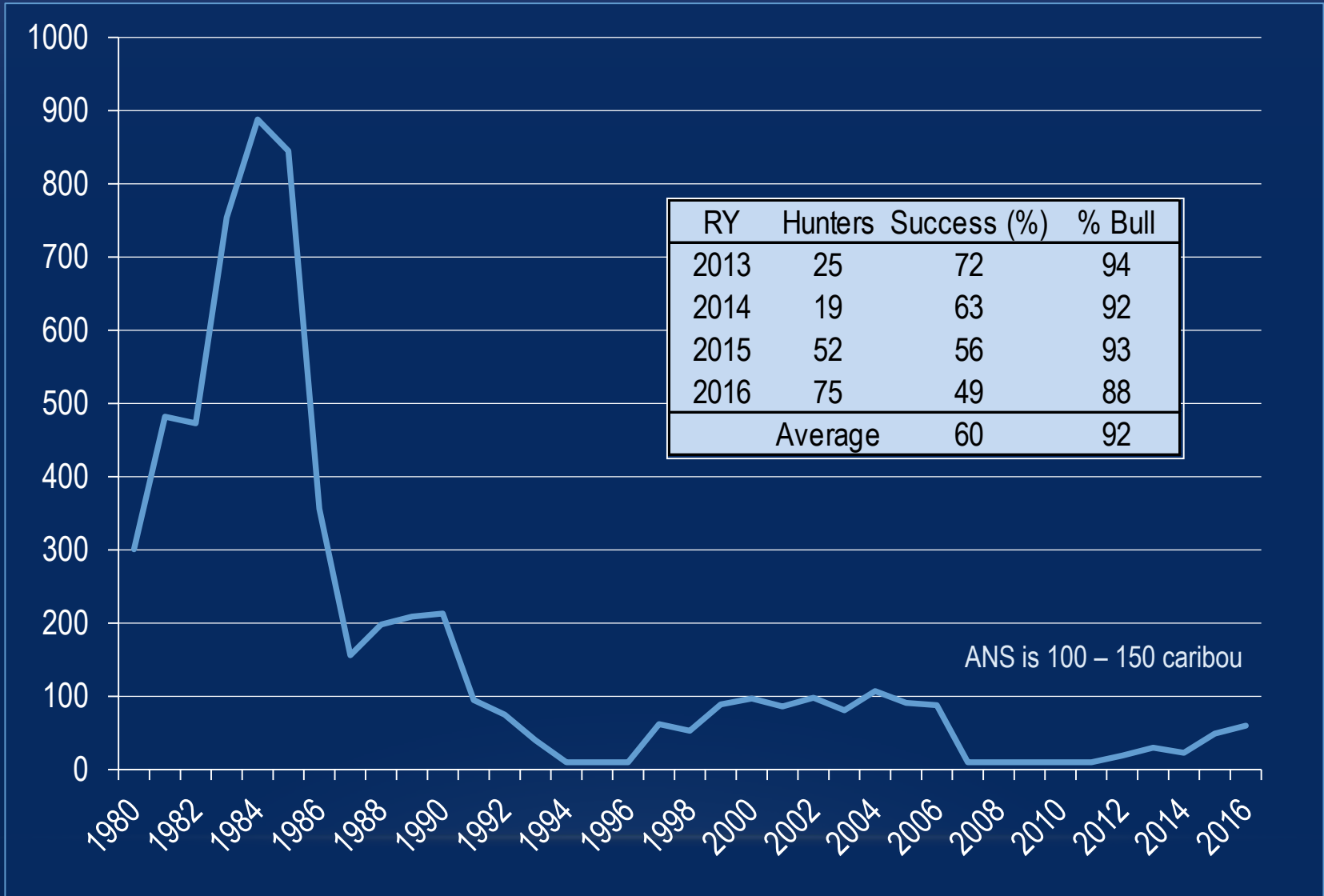
Background (continued)

- Harvestable surplus determined annually by population modeling.
 - Harvest rate currently 3%, increase as necessary to stabilize herd.
- The population can sustain additional harvest and continue population growth.
 - Given continued adequate bull:cow ratio and calf survival.

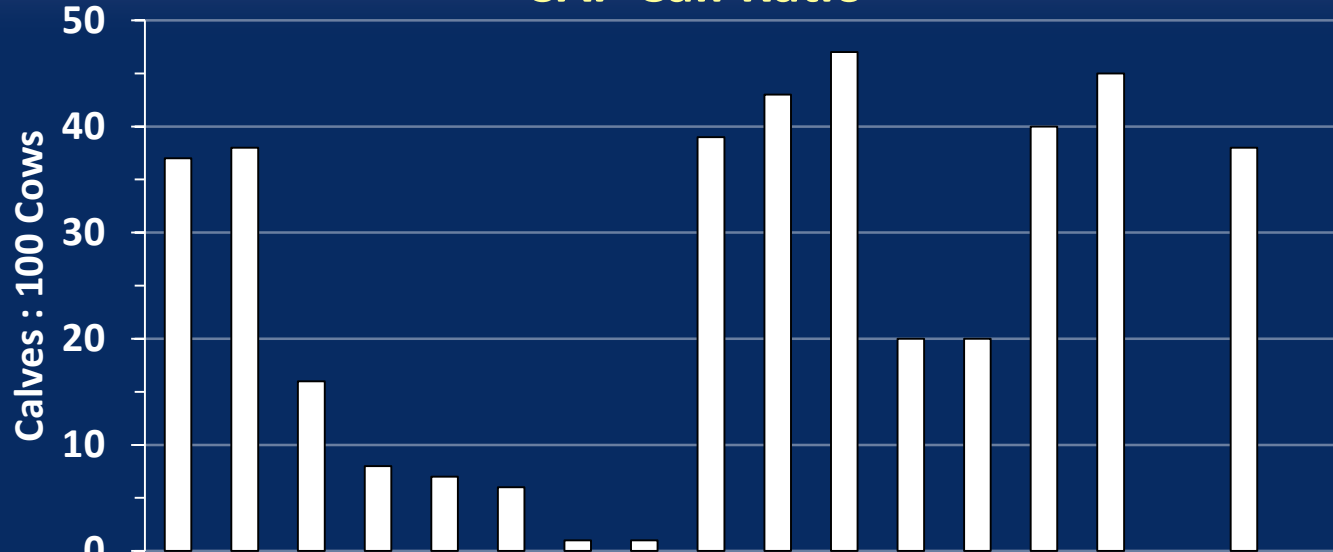
SAP Population & Harvest Rate



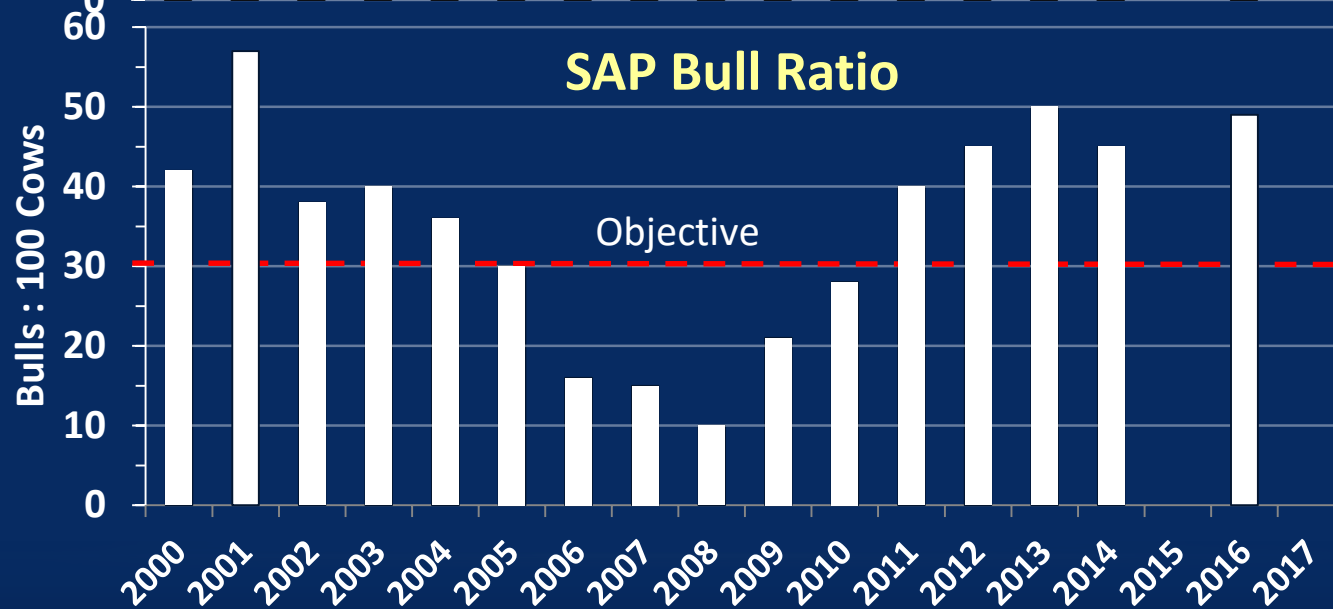
SAP Harvest



SAP Calf Ratio



SAP Bull Ratio



Considerations

- Current regulations limit us to a one caribou bag limit beyond a harvestable surplus of 150 caribou.
 - Bag limit not adequate as the population rebounds.
 - This is a good problem to have;
 - ✓ 10 years of improvement

PROPOSAL 126

ADF&G

Effect of Proposal

Provide the department with the means to proactively manage the growing SAP caribou population by increasing harvest commensurate with population levels.

Recommendation

Support

Lake Iliamna AC:

No recommendation

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

Support (8-0)

PROPOSAL 127

Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal

The RC504 portion of Unit 9C would become part of the RC503 Mulchatna caribou permit area, with season dates of August 1–March 15.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)

Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)

Proposed Changes

Current Regulations:

9A and that portion of 9C w/in the Alagnak River drainage

Aug. 1 – Mar. 15

2 caribou/RC503

That portion of 9C north of the north bank of the Naknek River and south of the Alagnak River River drainage.

“May be announced”

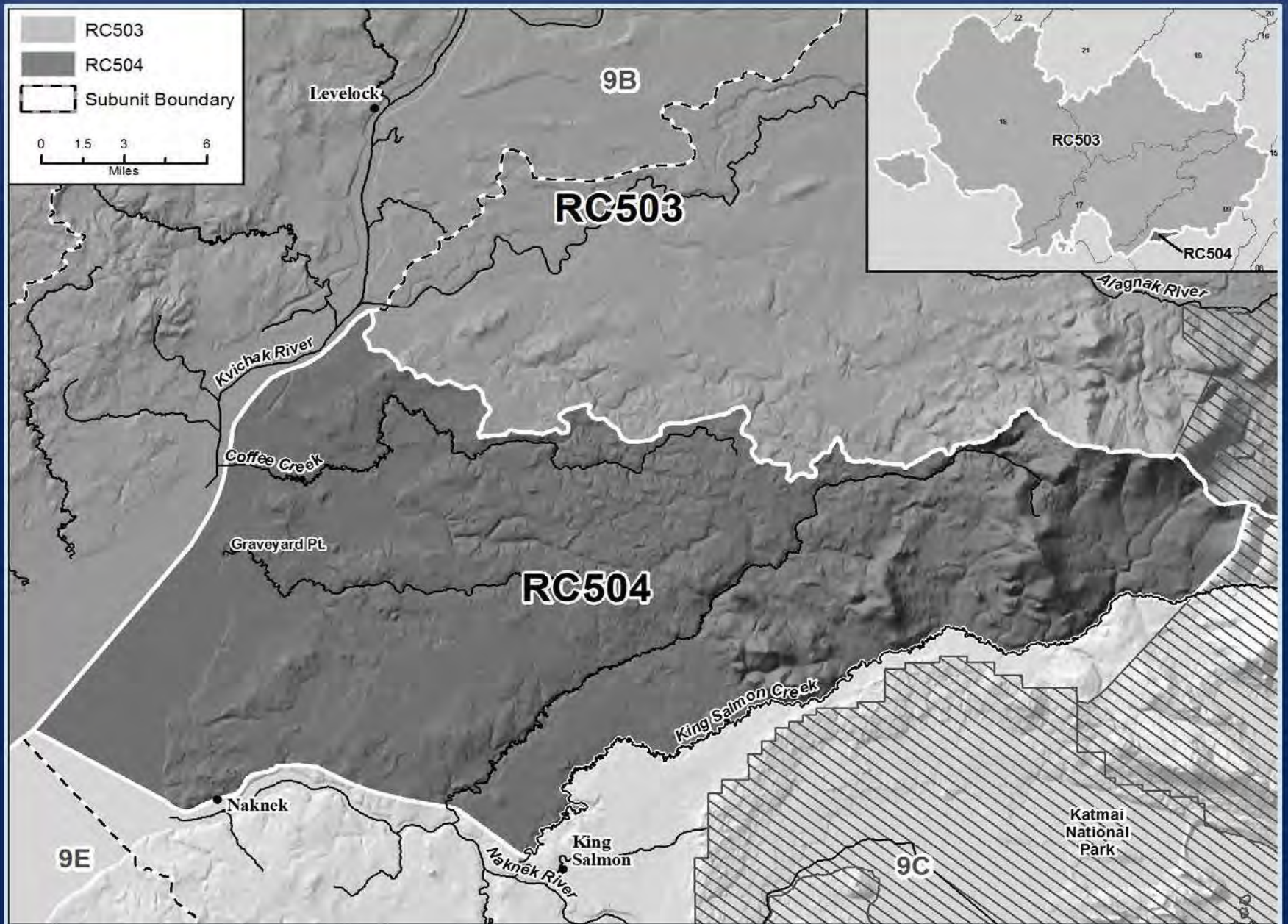
1 caribou/RC504

Proposed Regulations:

Unit 9A and **9C north of the north bank of the Naknek River.**

Aug. 1 – Mar. 15

2 caribou/RC503



Background

- RC504 area was established in 2004 to protect the declining NAP when a portion of the NAP crossed the Naknek River into MCH range.
 - This has not occurred for years and NAP is increasing.
- Proposal would simplify regulations and increase opportunity without compromising NAP.

PROPOSAL 127

Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal

The RC504 portion of Unit 9C would become part of the RC503 Mulchatna caribou permit area, with season dates of August 1–March 31.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)

Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)

PROPOSAL 128

Public

Effect of Proposal

Remove season and bag limit restrictions for bull caribou on Adak Island.

Recommendation

Opposed

Lake Iliamna AC:

No recommendation

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

No recommendation

Proposed Changes

Current Regulations:

Unit 10 Adak Island

No closed season
except Jan. 1 – Aug. 9
and Aug. 10 – Dec. 31

No bag limit
no bulls
no more than 2 bulls

Proposed Regulations:

Unit 10 Adak Island

No closed season

No bag limit

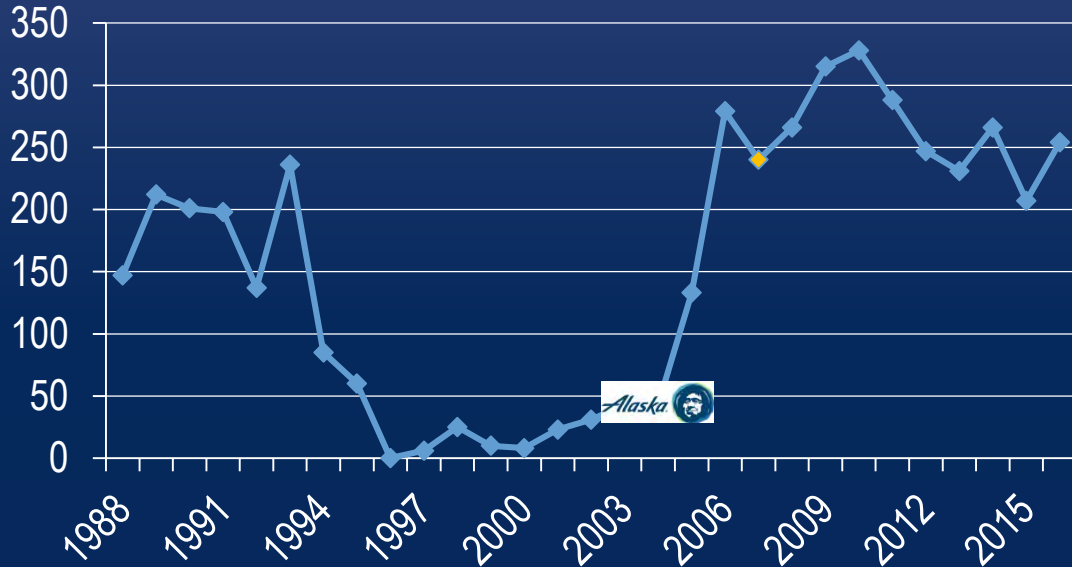
Background

- Caribou on Adak Island were introduced in the 1950s, kept in check by heavy harvest from the U.S. Navy until 1994.
 - No predators
- After the Navy shipped out, caribou increased to approximately 3,000 animals by 2005.
- Alaska Airlines began scheduled flights in 2004.
 - Increased number of hunters seeking trophy bulls
 - Also apparently increased resident population of the island

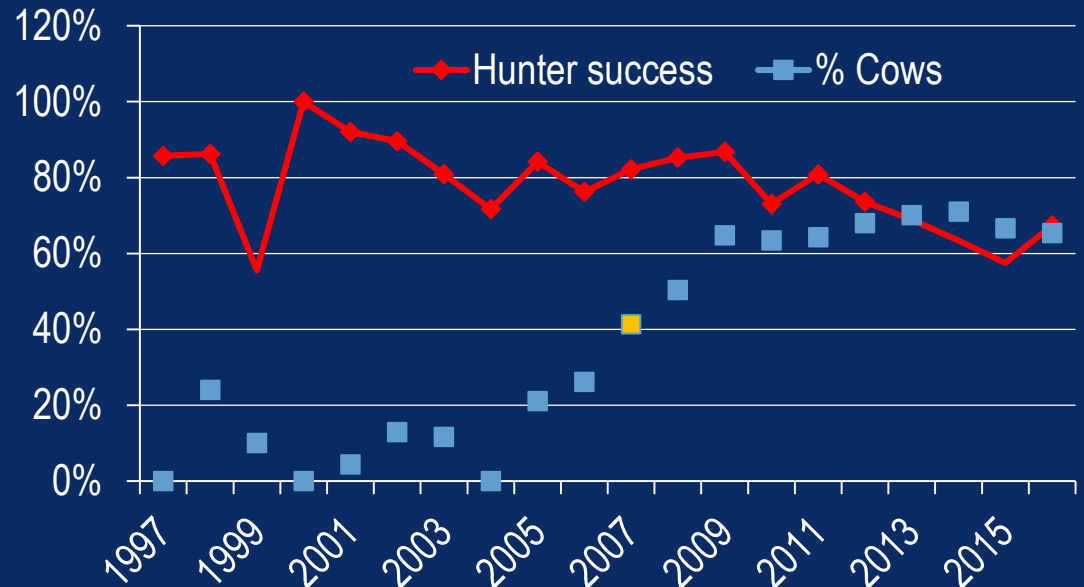
Background

- Current regulations were implemented in 2007 to encourage cow harvest:
 - Control population size
 - Maintain the potential for trophy-sized bulls as incentive for hunters
- USFWS survey in 2012 estimated 2,500–2,880 caribou.
- Harvest strategy seems to be limiting herd size as intended.

Adak Island Reported Harvest



Hunter Success and % Females



PROPOSAL 128

Public

Effect of Proposal

Remove season and bag limit restrictions for bull caribou on Adak Island.

Recommendation

Opposed

Lake Iliamna AC:

No recommendation

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

No recommendation

PROPOSAL 129

Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal

Add five days to the moose season in Unit 9B.

Recommendation

- Support to simplify regulations
- Neutral for increasing season length

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)

Proposed Changes

Current Regulations:

Unit 9B, residents	Sep. 1 – 15	1 bull
	Dec. 15 – Jan. 15	1 antlered bull
Nonresidents	Sep. 5 – 15	

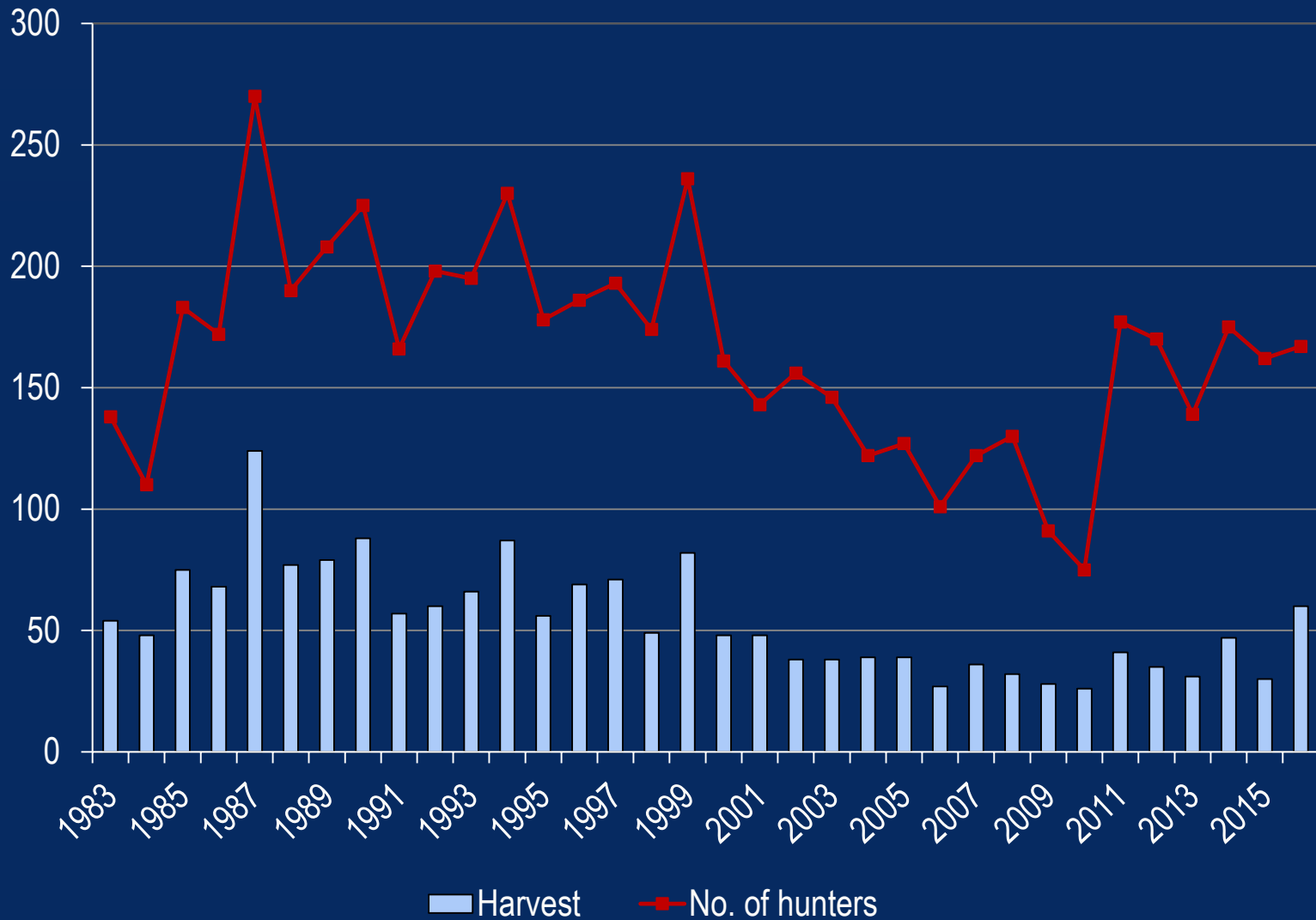
Proposed Regulations:

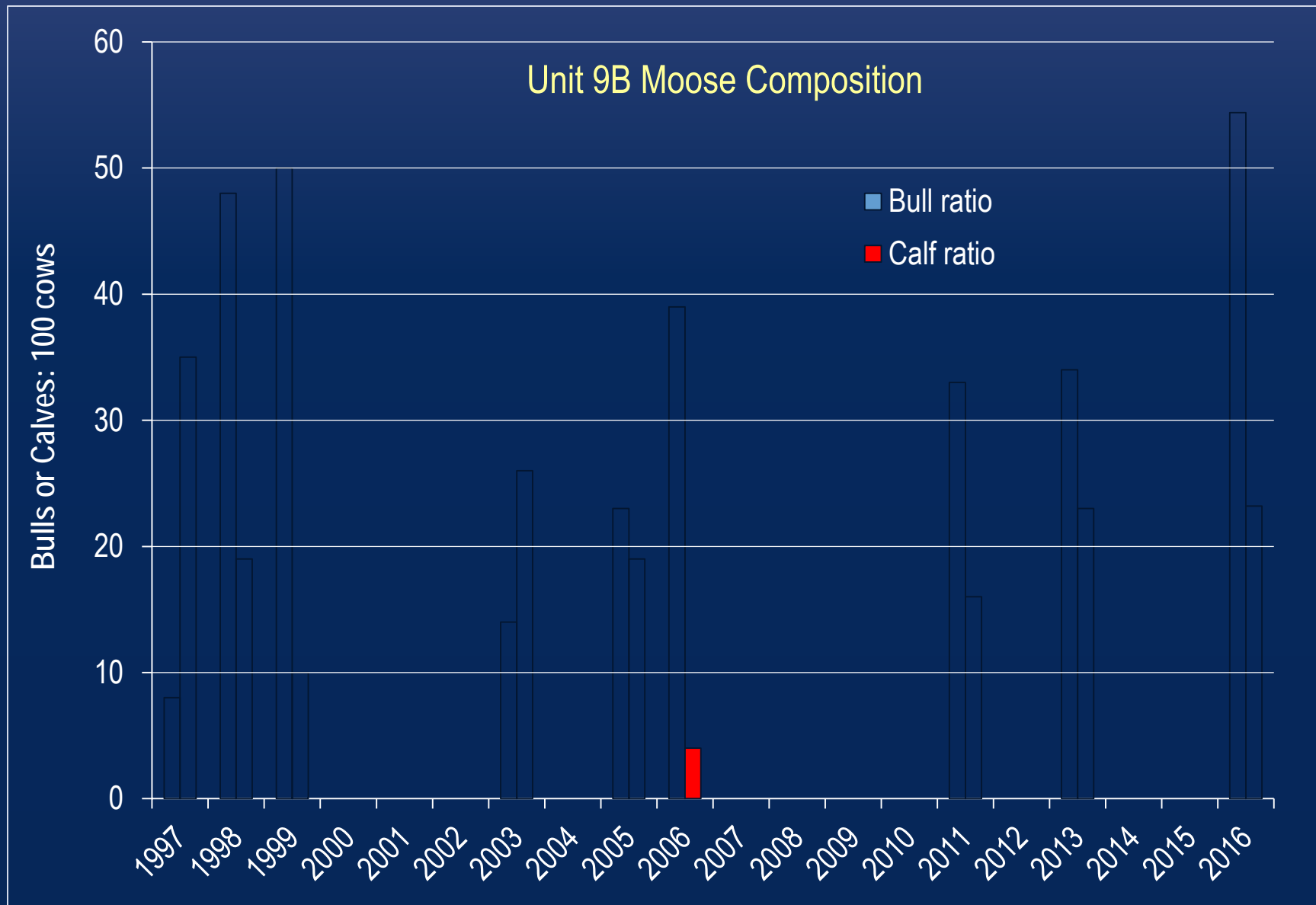
Unit 9B, residents	Sep. 1 – 20	1 bull
	Dec. 15 – Jan. 15	1 antlered bull
Nonresidents	Sep. 5 – 15	

Background

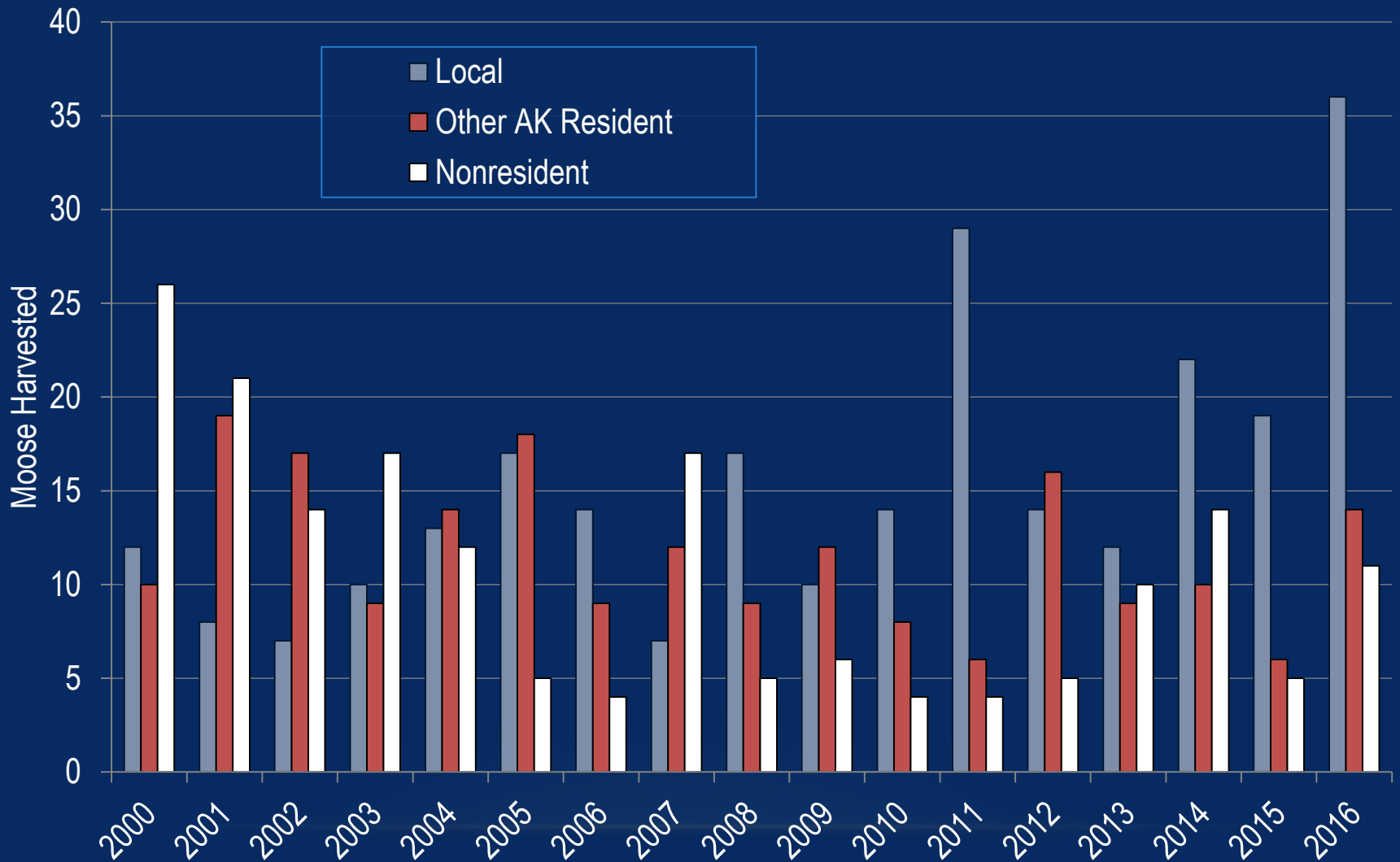
- The current fall season dates took effect in 1990 and the first year of registration permits was 2011
- Small increase in bull harvest is sustainable
 - 2012 GSPE survey in Unit 9B estimated 1,160 moose (~3% harvest rate)
 - Latest survey showed over 50 bulls:100 cows
- Align Unit 9B season dates with 9C (same registration hunt)

Unit 9B Moose Harvest





Moose Harvest by Residency Unit 9B



PROPOSAL 129

Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal

Add five days to the moose season in Unit 9B.

Recommendation

- Support to simplify regulations
- Neutral for increasing season length

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)

PROPOSAL 130

Public

Effect of Proposal

Allow hunters to obtain registration permits for moose hunting in Unit 9B online, and/or at regional offices in the state.

Recommendation

Take no action – requesting Board guidance.

Lake Iliamna AC

Support (5-0)

Naknek/Kvichak AC

Support (8-0)

Proposed Changes

Current regulations (hunt condition):

- Registration permits are available in villages throughout Unit 9B and King Salmon (Unit 9C) beginning August 16, and the hunt opens September 1.
- Permits are not available online.
- The permit hunt conditions limiting availability of registration permits in Unit 9B and 9C are done under the department's discretionary authority.

Proposed regulations (hunt condition):

- Provide **online availability** for registration permits.

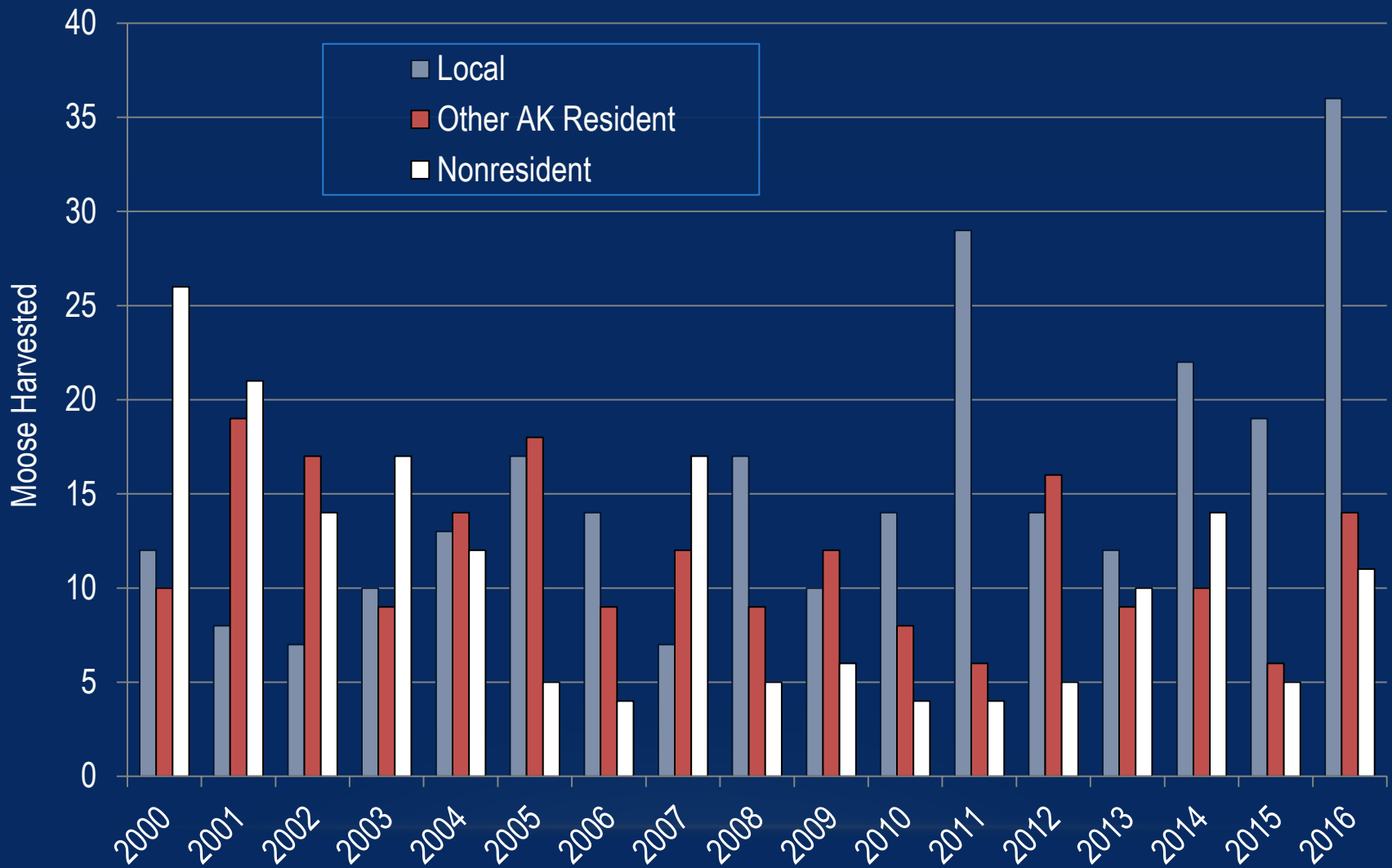
Background

- Registration permits for moose were initiated in 2011 in Unit 9.
- Moose working group (2010) consensus recommendations pertaining to permits:
 1. Department staff issue registration permits in villages and towns of Units 9B and 9C, but not outside of Unit 9;
 2. Offer village council offices and vendors the opportunity to issue registration permits in Unit 9B;
 3. HAVE PERMITS AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR ALL HUNTERS.
- Ultimately, permits were only issued in villages and towns.

Considerations

- Hunters in Unit 9 villages are accustomed to getting permits online:
 - Caribou, brown bear, licenses, Tier II, drawing
 - Moose hunts in Units 9A, 9D and 9E
- No online option for moose can be quite inconvenient for local hunters:
 - Need permit during non-business hours
 - Can't make it when ADF&G is in town
 - The one person issuing permits leaves town
 - Hunters end up with non-valid harvest ticket

Moose Harvest by Residency Unit 9B



Considerations

- In October 2017 the Naknek-Kvichak and Lake Iliamna Advisory Committees voted unanimously to SUPPORT online registration for all Unit 9 moose hunters
 - Department to monitor and report any increase in non-local moose harvest in Units 9B and 9C to AC's.
 - Continue visiting villages to issue permits

PROPOSAL 130

Public

Effect of Proposal

Allow hunters to obtain registration permits for moose hunting in Unit 9B online, and/or at area offices in the state.

Recommendation

Take no action – requesting Board guidance

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)

PROPOSAL 131

Public

Effect of Proposal

Allow resident hunters to take one brown bear per year in Unit 9.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation aspects
- Opposed to increase in harvest

Lake Iliamna AC: *Oppose (0-5)*
Naknek/Kvichak AC: *Oppose (0-8)*

Current Regulations

Unit 9, Residents

RB525	July 1–June 30	1 bear/year; near-village hunt
-------	----------------	--------------------------------

9B, Residents

RB369, RB370	Sep 20–Oct 21	Biennially; 1 bear per 4 years
--------------	---------------	--------------------------------

May 10–31

RB505	Sep 1–May 31	1 bear/year; subsistence hunt only
-------	--------------	------------------------------------

9A, 9C, 9D, 9E, Residents

RB368, RB370	Oct 1 – 21	Biennially; 1 bear per 4 years
--------------	------------	--------------------------------

May 10–31

RB502, 9E only	Sep 1–May 31	1 bear/year; subsistence hunt only
----------------	--------------	------------------------------------

Nov 1–Dec 31

Proposed Changes

Unit 9, Residents

RB525 July 1–June 30 1 bear/year, near-village hunt

9B, Residents

RB369, RB370 Sep 20–Oct 21 Biennially, 1 bear **per year**

May 10–31

RB505 Sep 1–May 31 1 bear/year, subsistence hunt only

9A, 9C, 9D, 9E, Residents

RB368, RB370 Oct 1 – 21 Biennially, 1 bear **per year**

May 10–31

RB502, 9E only Sep 1–May 31 1 bear/year, subsistence hunt only

Nov 1–Dec 31

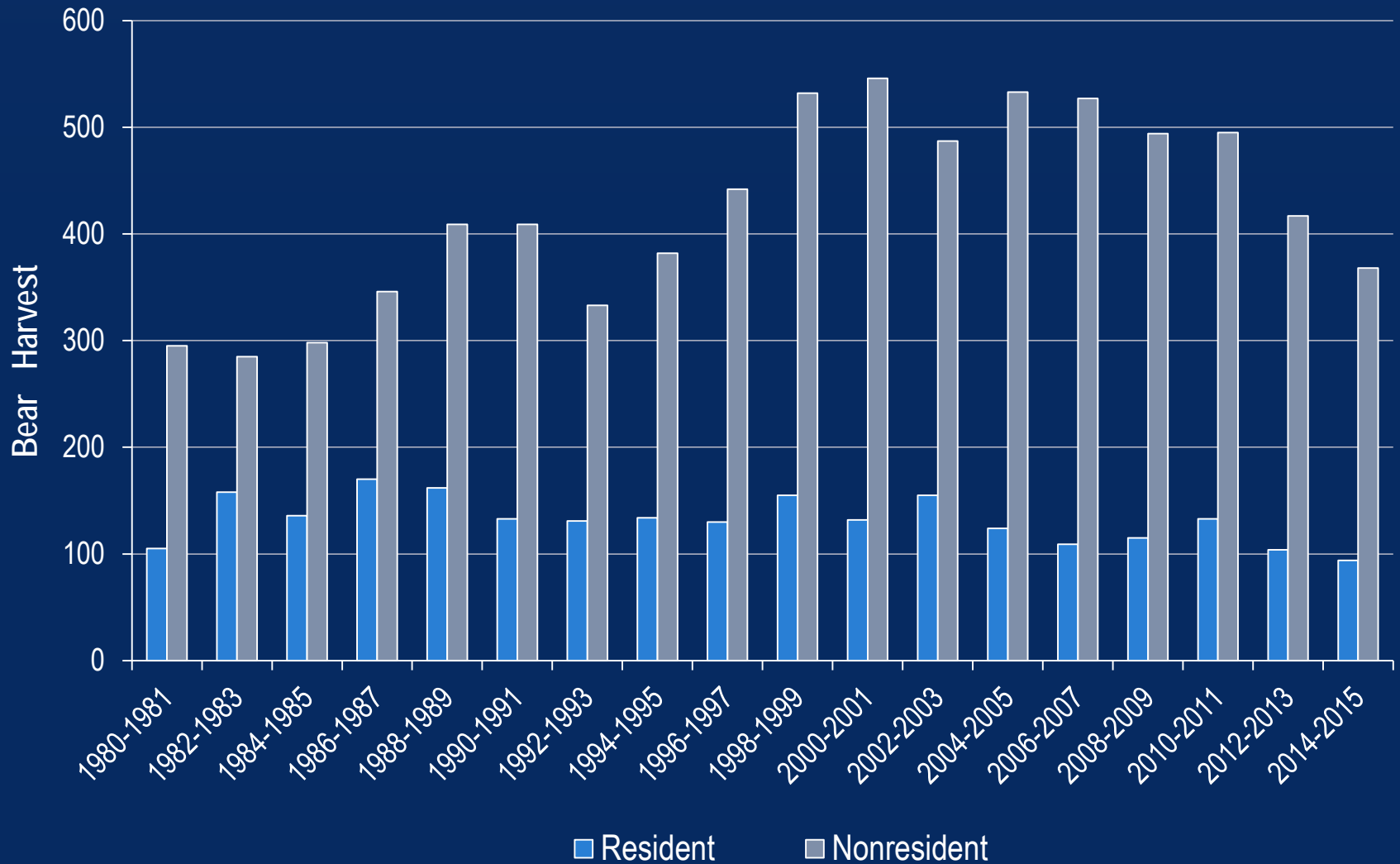
Background

- Biennial hunts established in 1976 with 2-week spring and fall seasons
 - Response to overharvested and depleted bear population
- Unit 9 bear harvest is on declining trend since 2000
 - 11% decline in hunter success rate in registration hunts (2011 through 2015).
- Severe snow winters of 2011–12 and 2012–13, snow remaining until June
 - Public reports of bears found dead in dens (2012)
 - Flooded, low-country dens observed in May and June (2012)
- Failed berry crops 2013–2015: warm dry summers.

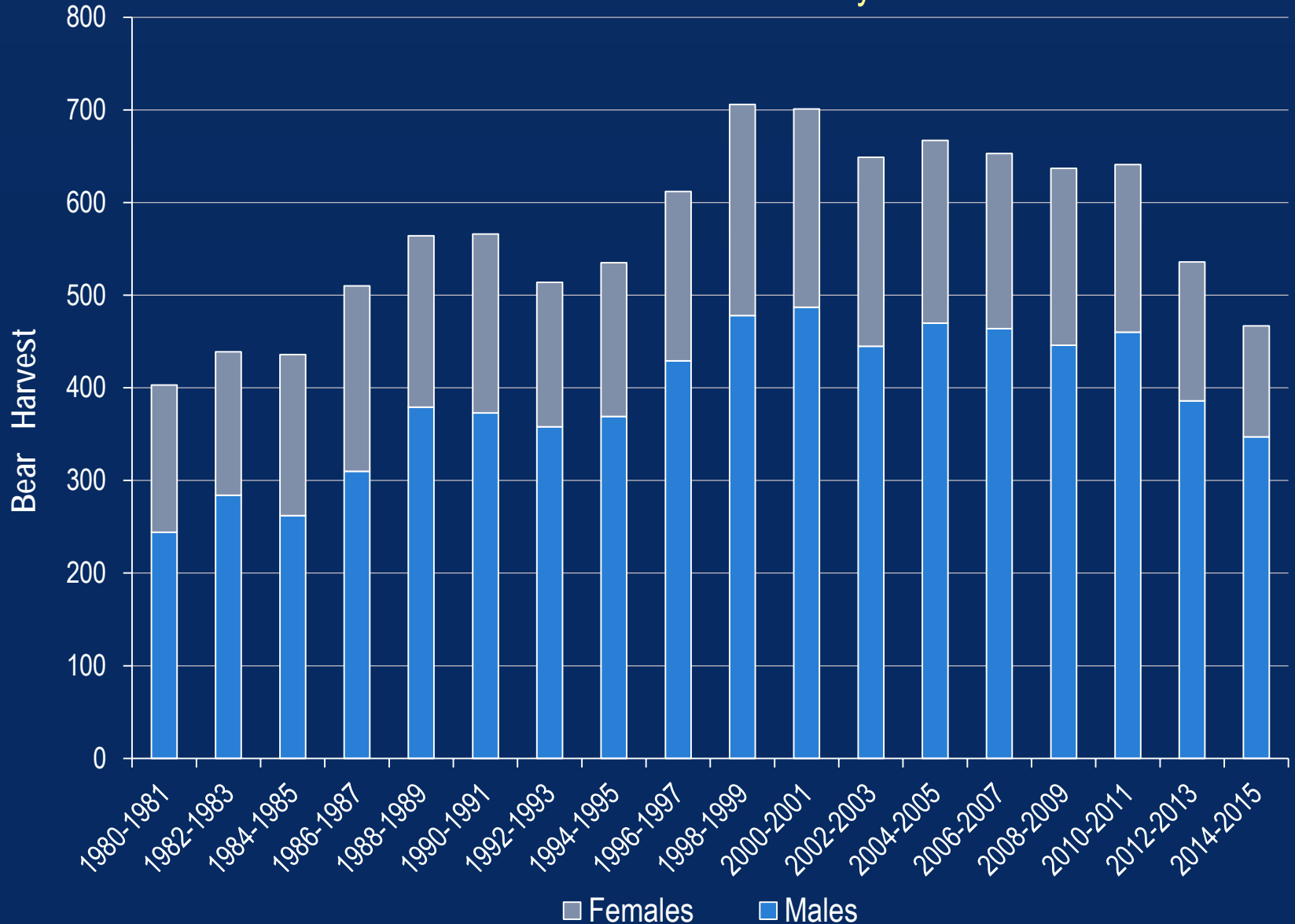
Background

- Noticeably fewer bears on the landscape, particularly large adults 2013–2017
 - Observations by staff conducting ungulate work over vast area
 - Calf mortality projects, ungulate captures, aerial surveys
- Concern by long-time guides over lack of adult bears
- Calls from public “Where’s the bears?” (2013–2015)
- Sows with multiple cubs increased in 2016
 - Triplets and even quads in 2016 and 2017
- 16% decline in hunter success rate in recent registration hunts (2011 through 2015)
- Recent and abrupt increase in age structure of harvested bears

Unit 9 Brown Bear Harvest by Residency



Unit 9 Brown Bear Harvest by Sex



Unit 9 Brown Bear Registration Hunt Summary, 2011-2015

<u>RY</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>No. Hunters</u>	<u>% Change No. Hunters</u>	<u>Bear Harvest</u>	<u>Hunter Success (%)</u>	<u>% Change in Success</u>
2011	Fall	507		356	70.2	
2013	Fall	437		245	56.1	
2015	Fall	411	-19	185	45.0	-35.9
2011	Spring	380		237	62.4	
2013	Spring	387		238	61.5	
2015	Spring	405	7	275	67.9	8.9
2011	Fall+Spring	887		593	66.9	
2013	Fall+Spring	824		483	58.6	
2015	Fall+Spring	816	-8	460	56.4	-15.7
2011	RB525*	75		22	29.3	
2012	RB525*	51		17	33.3	
2013	RB525*	51		17	33.3	
2014	RB525*	23		7	30.4	
2015	RB525*	36	-52	9	25.0	-14.8
2011	Total	962		615	63.9	
2013	Total	926		517	55.8	
2015	Total	875	-9	476	54.4	-14.9

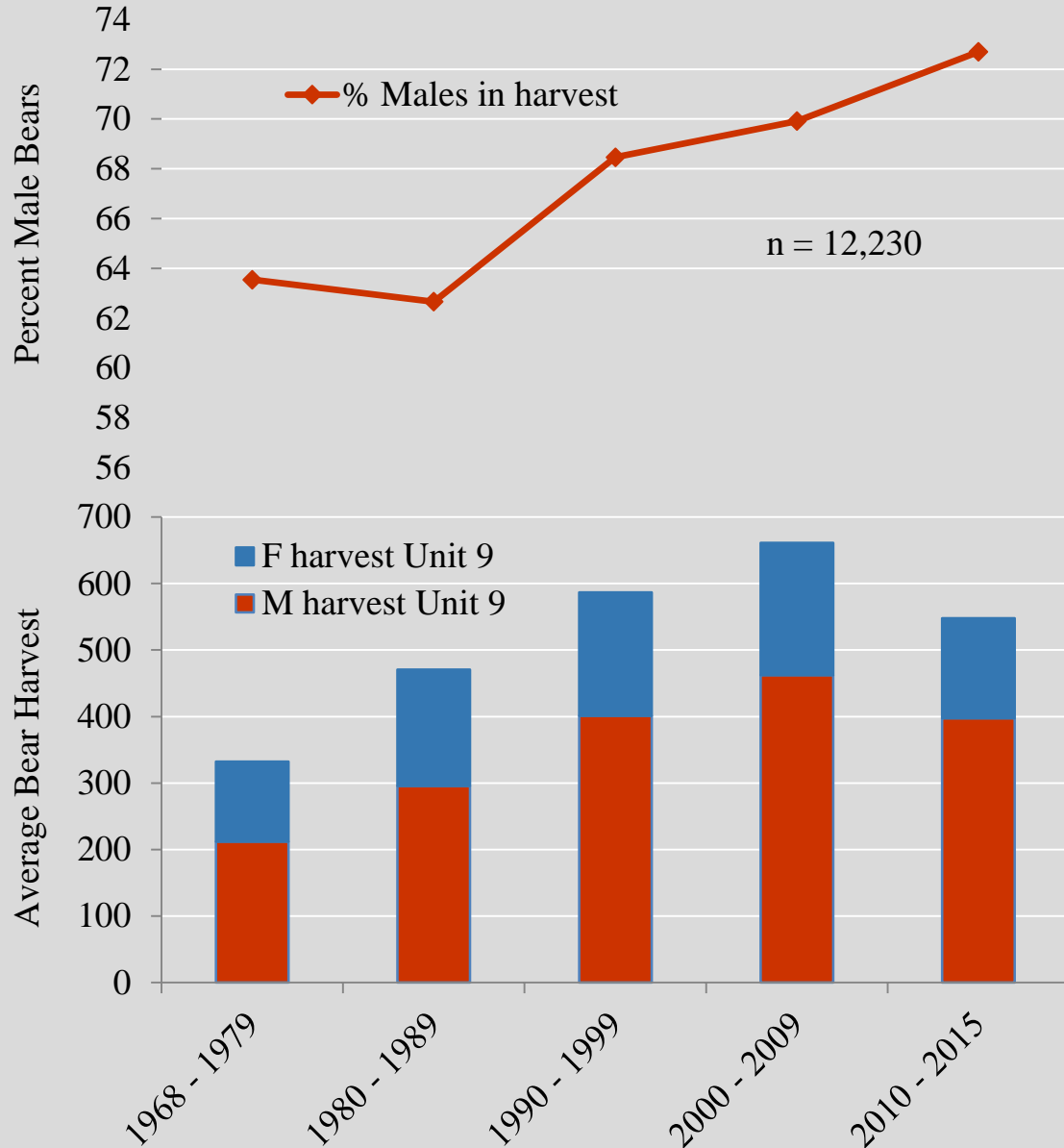
*Resident hunters only near-village hunt

Considerations

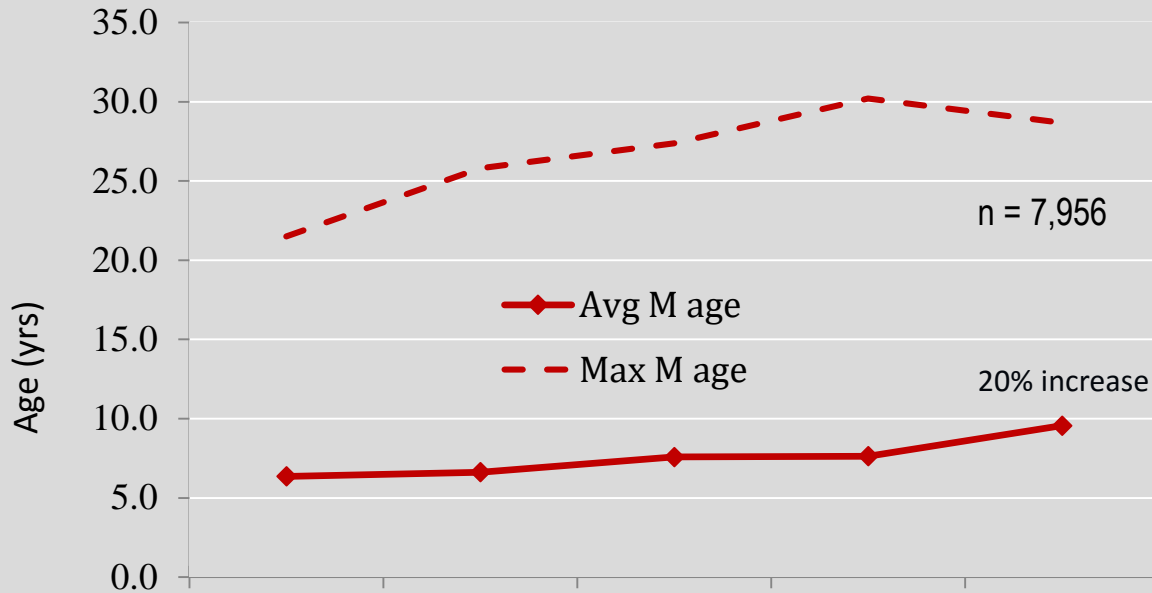
- Resident bear harvest in Unit 9 is limited by hunter participation (26%), not by bag limit of 1 bear per 4 years.
 - Resident hunters rarely take more than 1 bear in Unit 9 (only 1% of hunters in the last 2 decades)
 - Most residents don't want or need additional brown bear
- RB525 “near-village” hunt is additional opportunity for residents only
 - Interest in hunt has waned
- Abrupt changes in age structure of harvest.

Pooled Harvest Data

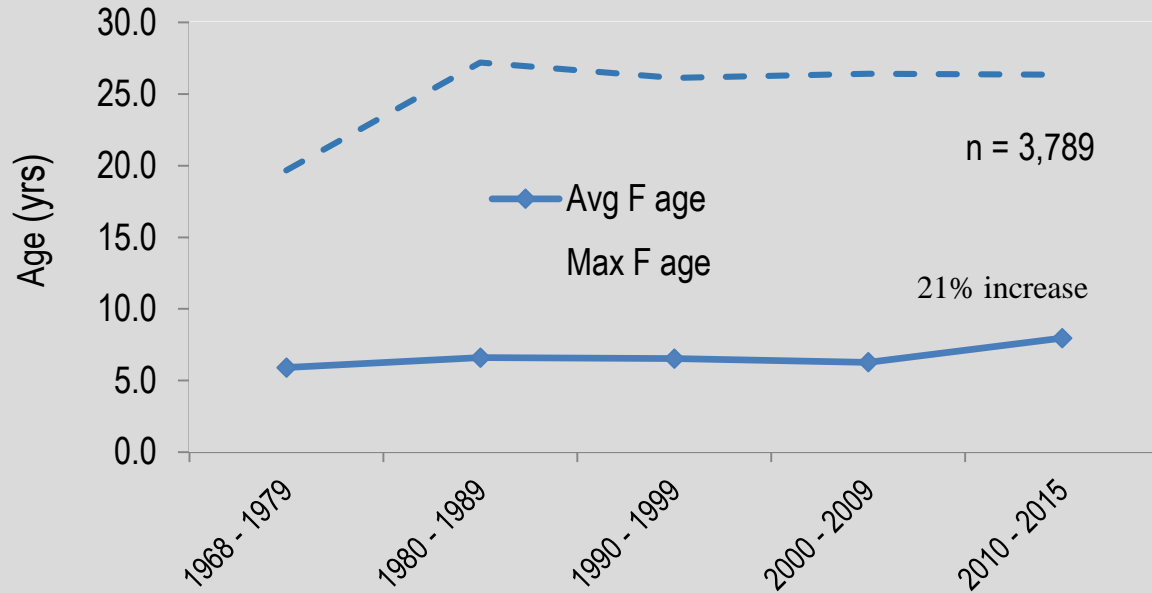
Proportion of male brown bears in the harvest, Unit 9



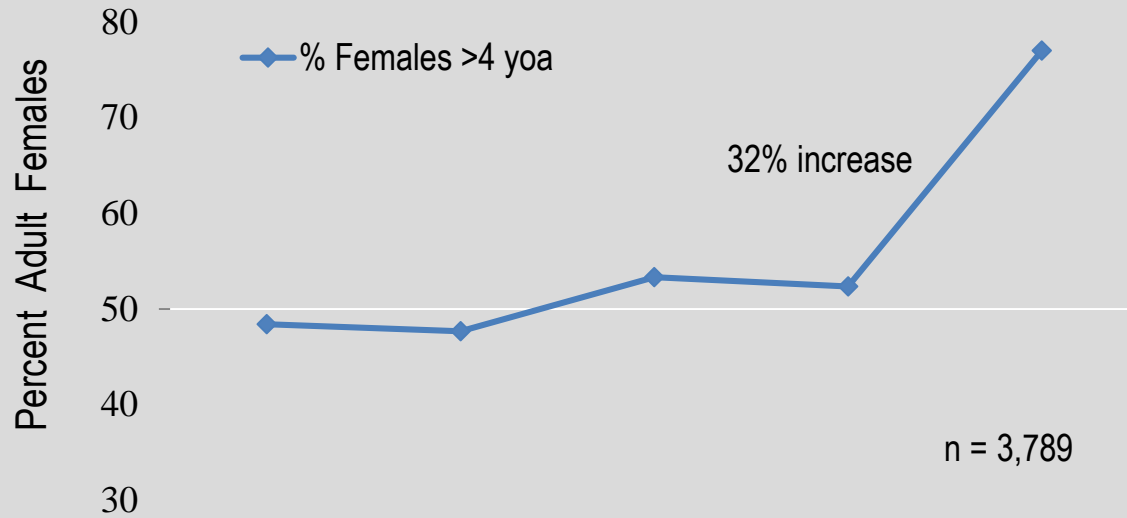
Average and Max age of Male Harvest in Unit 9 by Decade



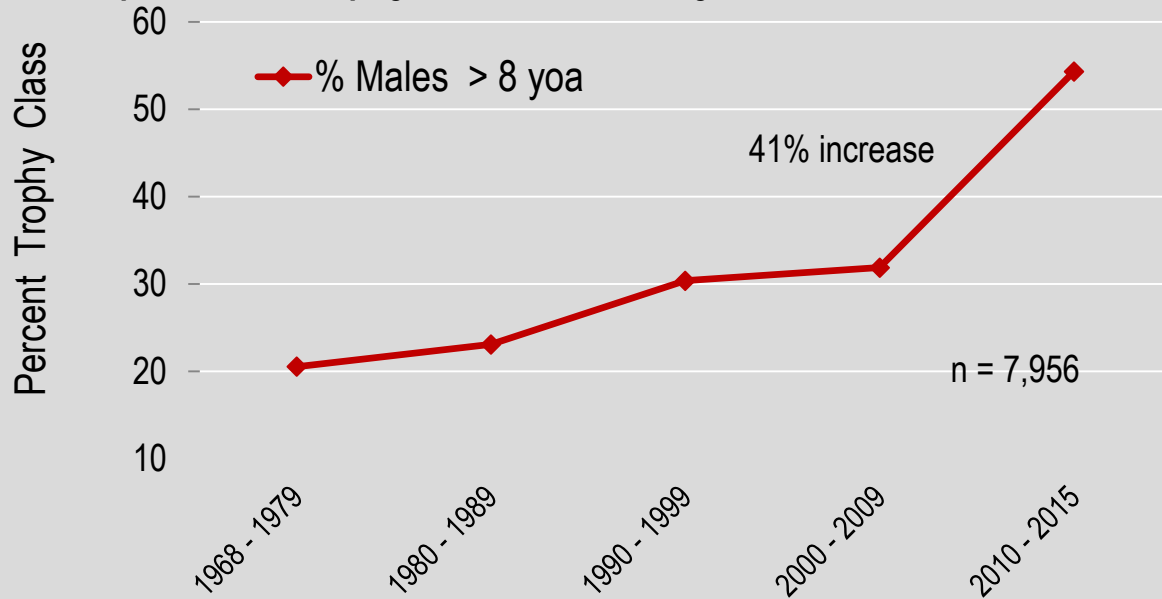
Average and Max age of Female Harvest in Unit 9 by Decade



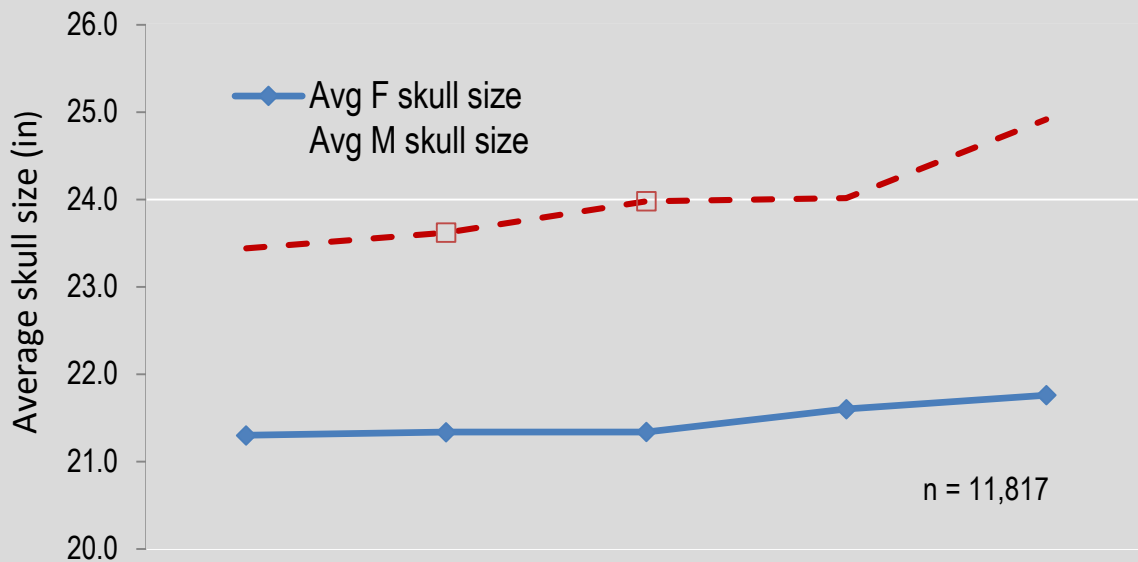
Proportion of Adult Females (> 4 yoa) in Female Harvest, Unit 9



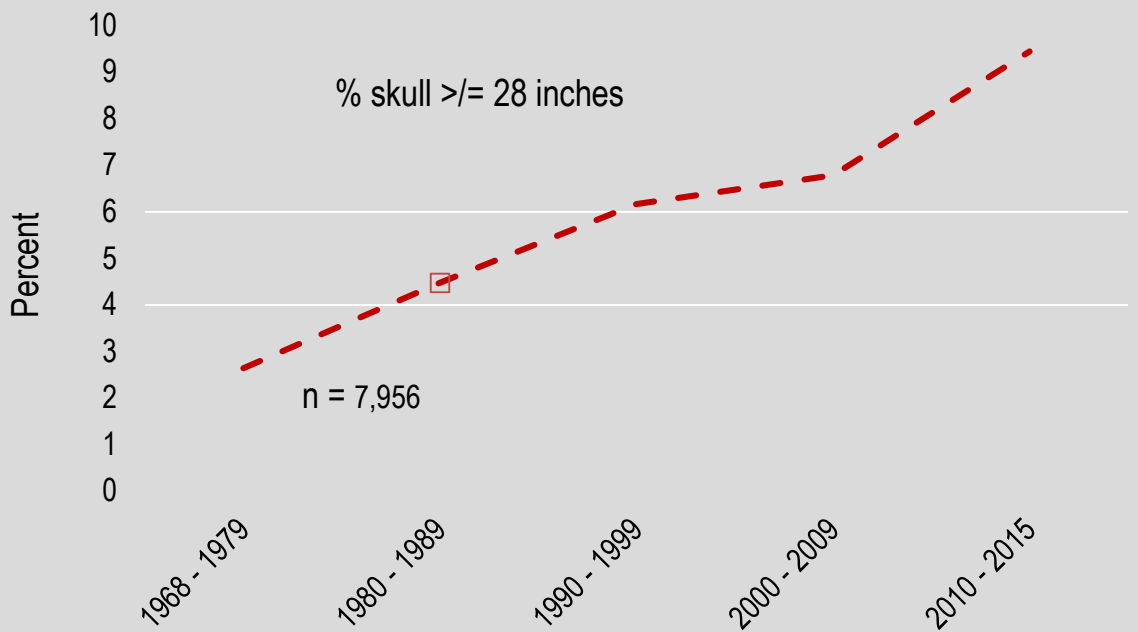
Proportion of Trophy Bears (males >8 yoa) in Male Harvest, Unit 9



Average skull size of brown bears killed in Unit 9



Percent male skulls >28 inches killed in Unit 9



Considerations

- Unit 9 brown bear population showing two important changes of concern:
 1. Long-term decline in harvest indicating a probable population decline;
 2. Abrupt increase in age of bears in harvest and field observations suggesting recent loss of cohort or 2 from natural mortality.
- Although increasing resident hunting opportunity would not increase bear harvest substantially, we recommend against any increase in harvest given population status.

PROPOSAL 131

Public

Effect of Proposal

Allow resident hunters to take one brown bear per year in Unit 9.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation aspects
- Opposed to increase in harvest

Lake Iliamna AC: *Oppose (0-5)*
Naknek/Kvichak AC: *Oppose (0-8)*

PROPOSAL 132

Public

Effect of Proposal

Provide resident hunters with annual brown bear seasons (either registration or drawing), *OR* have resident-only hunting during first five days of current fall and spring seasons thereby reducing nonresident seasons by five days each.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation aspects
- Oppose increase in harvest

Lake Iliamna AC:

No recommendation

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

Oppose (0-8)

Current Regulations

Unit 9, Residents

RB525

July 1–June 30

1 bear/year, near-village hunt

9B Residents

RB505

Sep 1–May 31

1 bear/year, subsistence hunt only

9B Residents and Nonresidents

RB369, RB370

Sep 20–Oct 21
May 10–31

Biennially, 1 bear per 4 years

9E portion, Residents

RB502

Sep 1 – May 31
Nov 1 – Dec 31

1 bear/year, subsistence hunt only

9A, 9C, 9D, 9E Residents and Nonresidents

RB368, RB370

Oct 1 – 21
May 10–31

Biennially, 1 bear per 4 years

Proposed Changes

9B, Residents

RB369, RB370

Sep 20–Oct 21
May 10–31

Annual season, 1 bear per 4 years

9A, 9C, 9D, 9E, Residents

RB368, RB370

Oct 1–21
May 10–31

Annual season, 1 bear per 4 years

Proposed Changes

OR

During currently closed years:

9B, Residents

Registration or
drawing permit

Sep 20–Oct 21
May 10–31

1 bear per 4 years
close by EO when quota reached

9A, 9C, 9D, 9E, Residents

Registration or
drawing permit

Oct 1–21
May 10–31

1 bear per 4 years
close by EO when quota reached

Proposed Changes

OR

(change first 5 days of each season to residents only)

9B, Residents

RB369, RB370

Sep 20 – Oct 21
May 10 – 31

Biennially, 1 bear per 4 years

9B, Nonresidents

Sep 25 – Oct 21
May 15 – 31

9A, 9C, 9D, 9E, Residents

RB368, RB370

Oct 1 – 21
May 10–31

Biennially, 1 bear per 4 years

9A, 9C, 9D, 9E, Nonresidents

Oct 6 – 21
May 15 – 31

PROPOSAL 132

- Option 1, Drawing or Registration hunts closed by EO.
- Setting quotas would be problematic but would probably result in season reduction
- Require up to 4 drawing hunts for approximately 250 resident hunters for a recommended quota of around 40 bears
- Closing registration hunts by emergency order not feasible for Alaska Peninsula bear hunters
 - Vast area in which to contact hunters
 - Hunters spent big bucks to get there
- Proposed changes would add multiple layers of complexity to current regulations

PROPOSAL 132

- Option 2, Residents-only season dates
- Changing existing season dates to resident-only for first 5 days would:
 - Probably reduce harvest because nonresident harvest is highest during that period
 - Nonresident harvest and success rate are higher than for residents
 - Reallocate harvest significantly between residents and nonresidents

PROPOSAL 132

Public

Effect of Proposal

Provide resident hunters with annual brown bear seasons (either registration or drawing), *OR* have resident-only hunting during first five days of current fall and spring seasons thereby reducing nonresident seasons by five days each.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation aspects
- Oppose increase in harvest

Lake Iliamna AC:

No recommendation

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

Oppose (0-8)

PROPOSAL 133

Public

Effect of Proposal

Reduce brown bear harvest in a portion of Unit 9E through use of drawing hunts.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation between residents and nonresidents
- Support a reduction in bear harvest in Unit 9E

Lake Iliamna AC:

No recommendation

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

No recommendation

Current Regulations

Unit 9, Residents

RB525

July 1–June 30

1 bear/year, near-village hunt

9E Residents and Nonresidents

RB368, RB370

Oct 1–21

Biennially, 1 bear per 4 years

May 10–31

9E portion, Residents

RB502

Sep 1–May 31

1 bear/year, subsistence hunt

only

Nov 1–Dec 31

Proposed Changes

Unit 9, Residents

RB525

July 1–June 30

1 bear/year, near-village hunt

9E portion, Nonresidents

Cinder R. to Mud R., state
lands only

Oct 1 – 21
May 10–31

Biennially, 1 bear per 4 years
Drawing hunt, limit 5 permits

Mud R. to Meshik R., state
lands only

Oct 1–21
May 10–31

Biennially, 1 bear per 4 years
Drawing hunt, limit 5 permits

9E remainder, Residents and Nonresidents

RB368, RB370

Oct 1–21
May 10–31

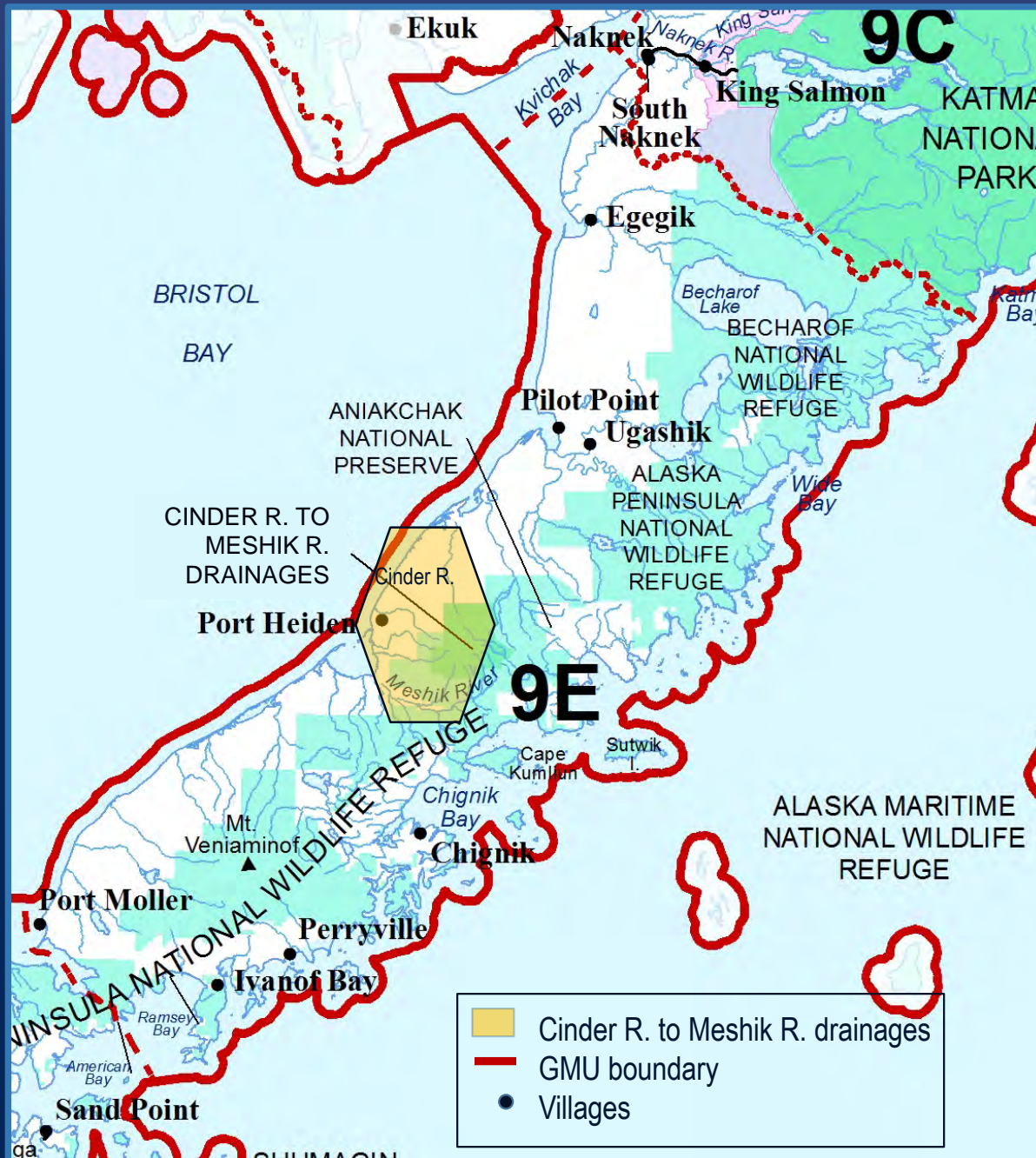
Biennially, 1 bear per 4 years

9E portion, Residents

RB502

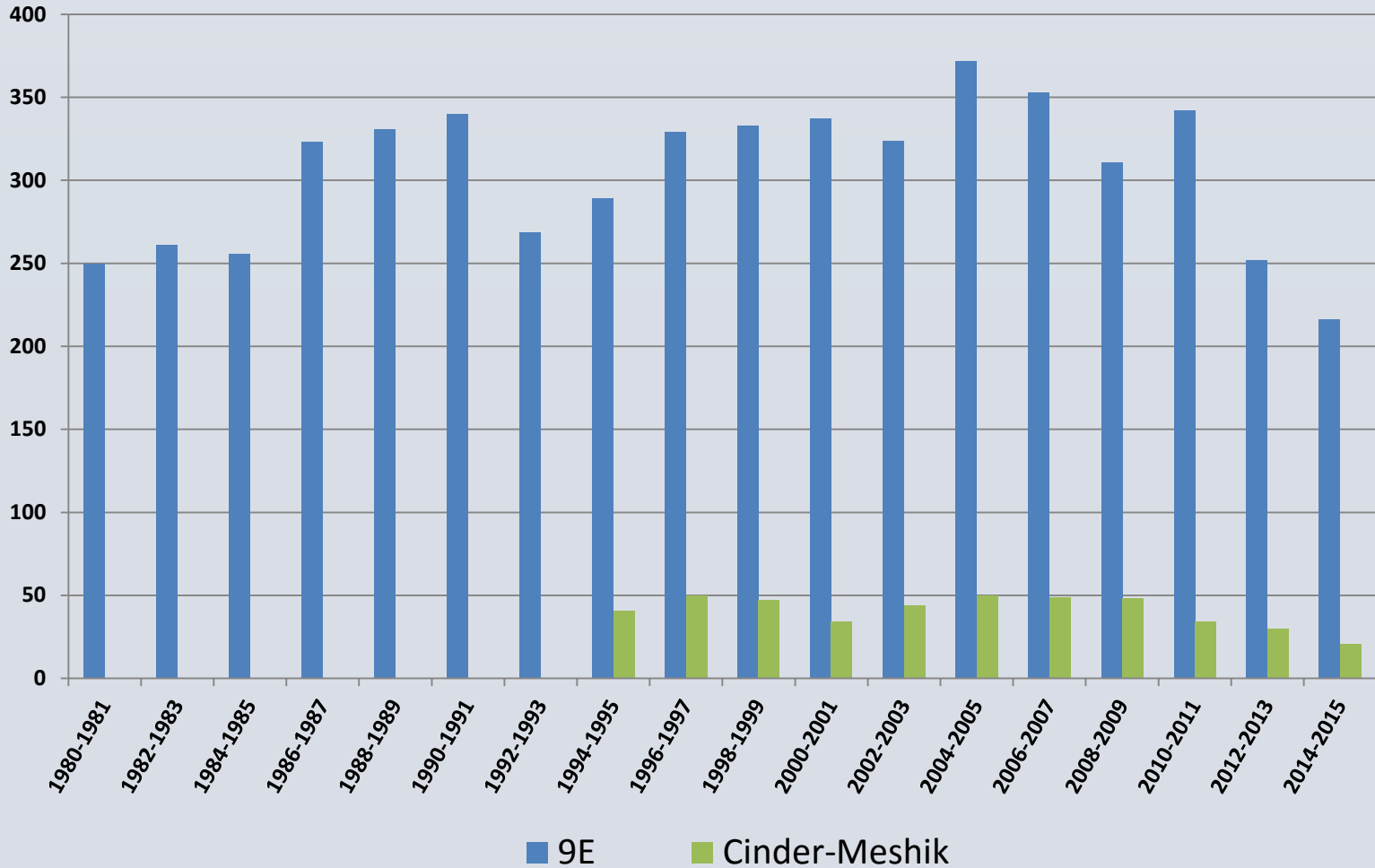
Sep 1–May 31
Nov 1–Dec 31

1 bear/year, subsistence hunt only



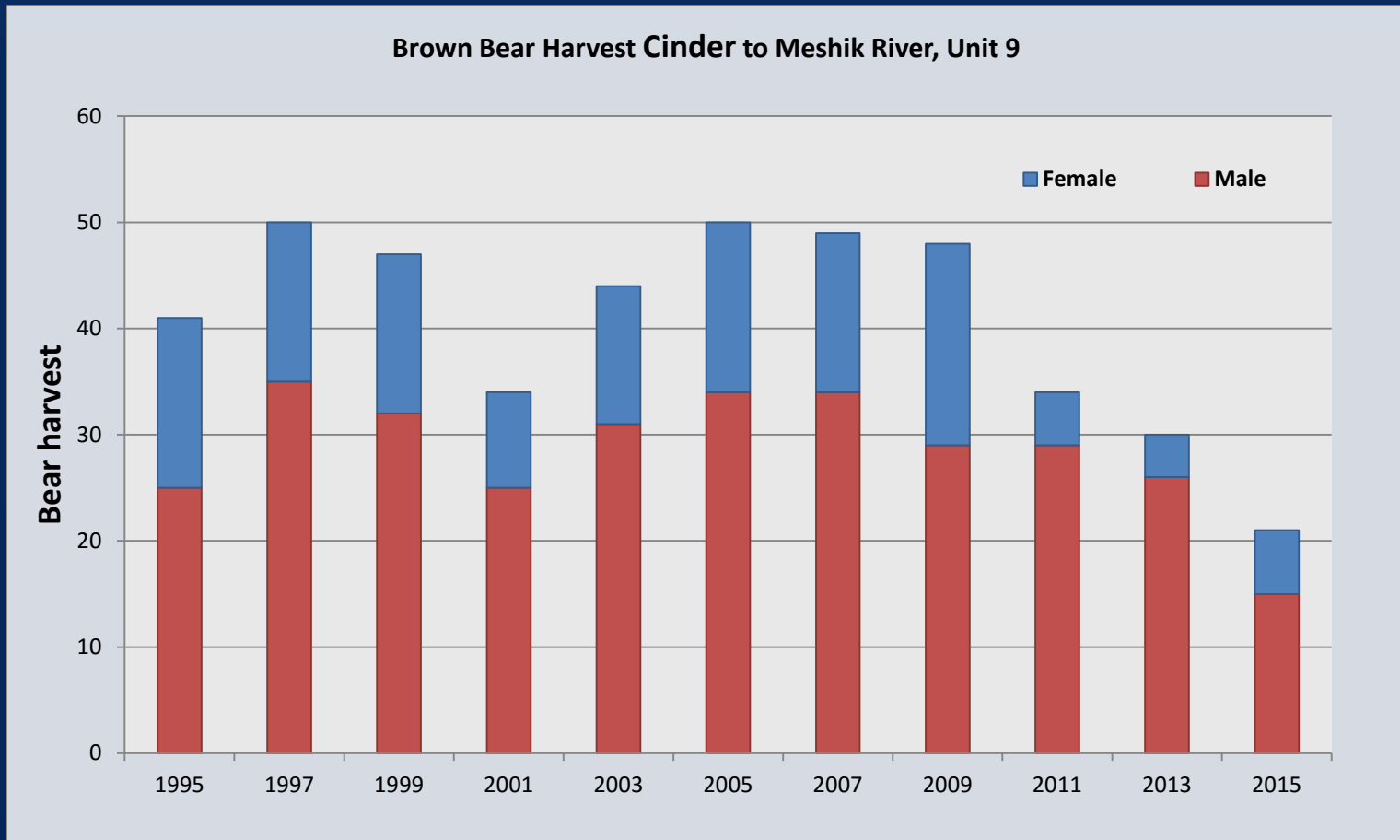
Harvest

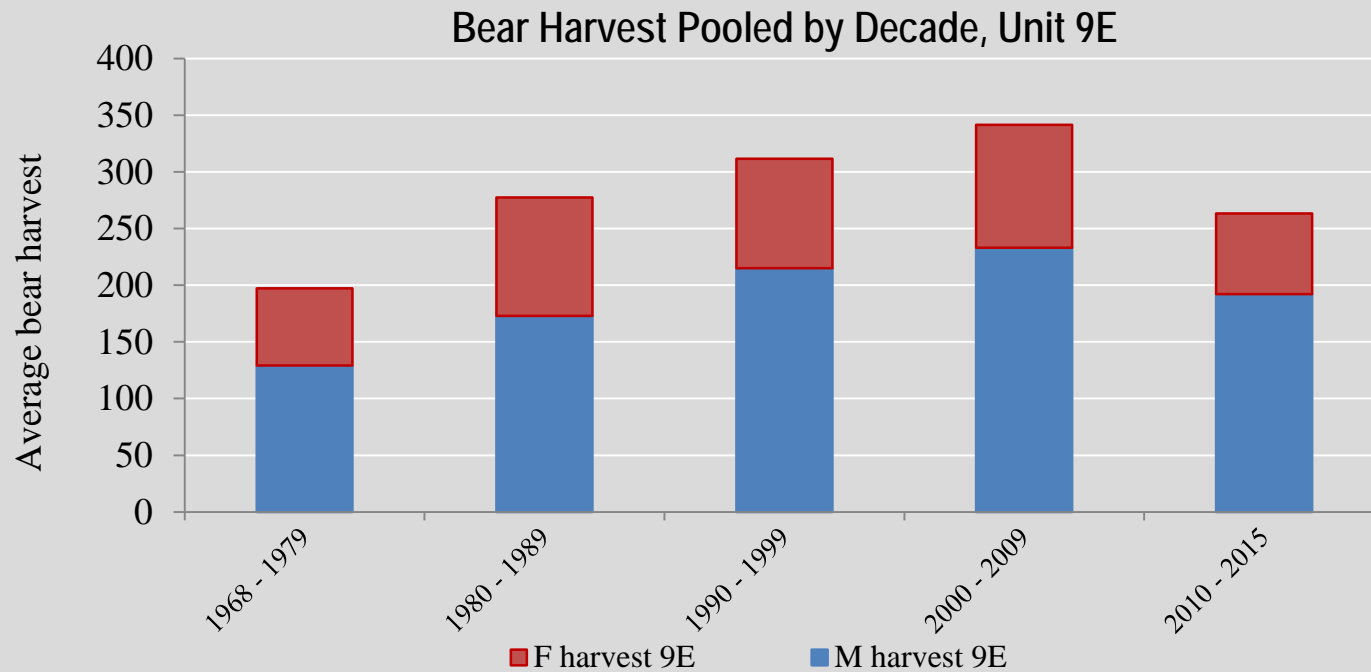
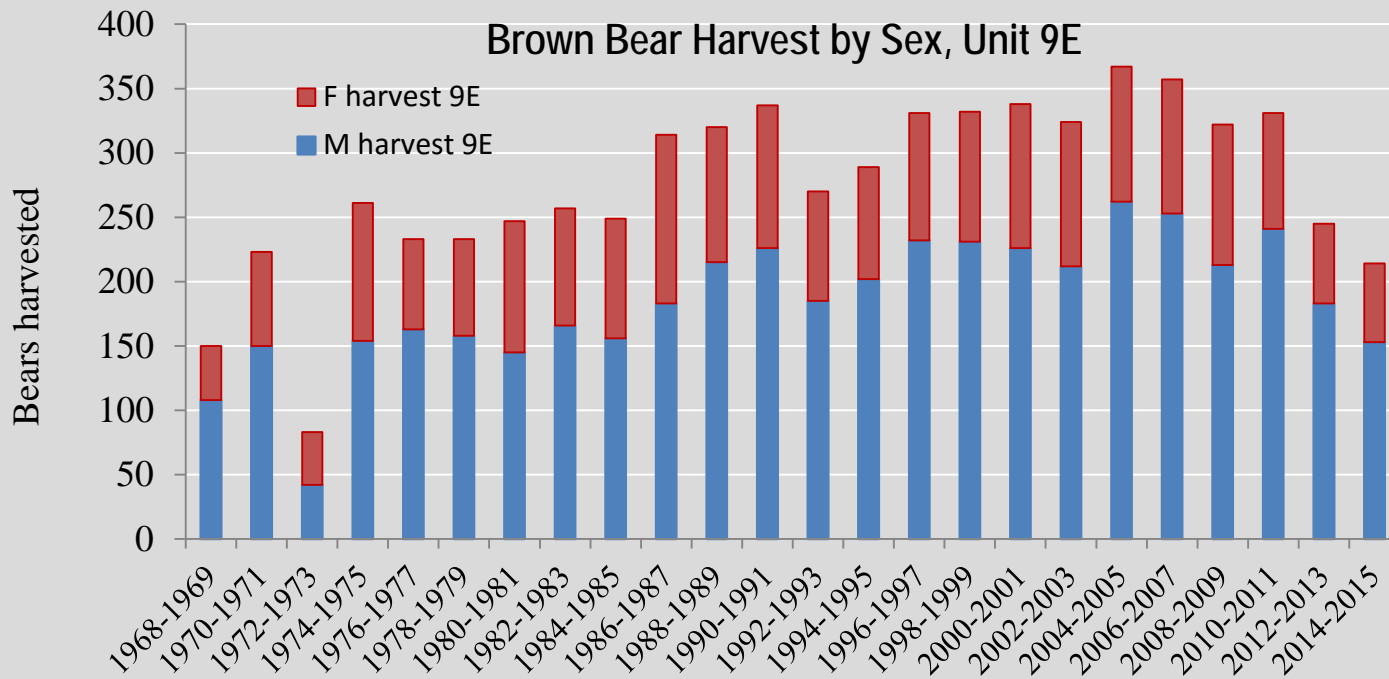
Brown Bear Harvest 9E and Cinder-Meshik Only



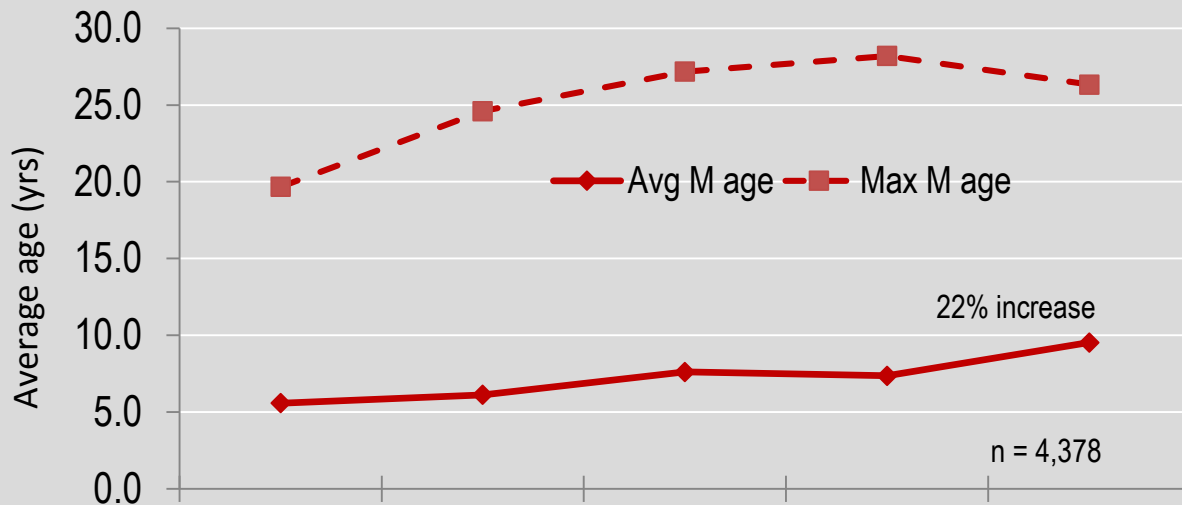
Harvest

- Harvest declined by 50% since 2005
- Proposal would reduce harvest from 20-30 bears per 2 years to 10 bears per 2 years.

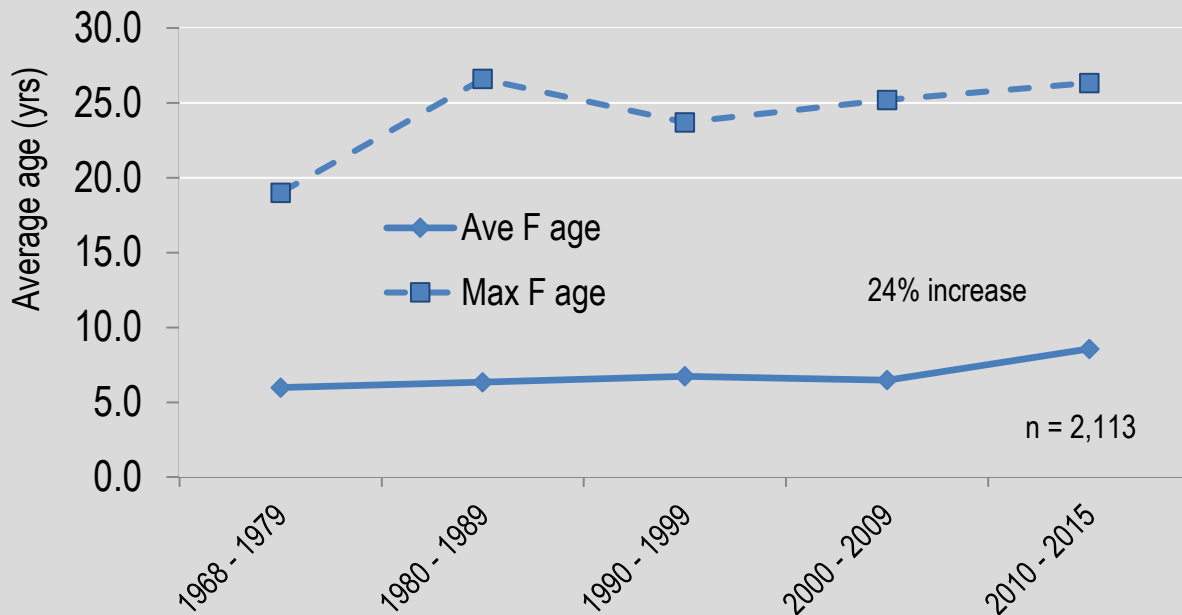




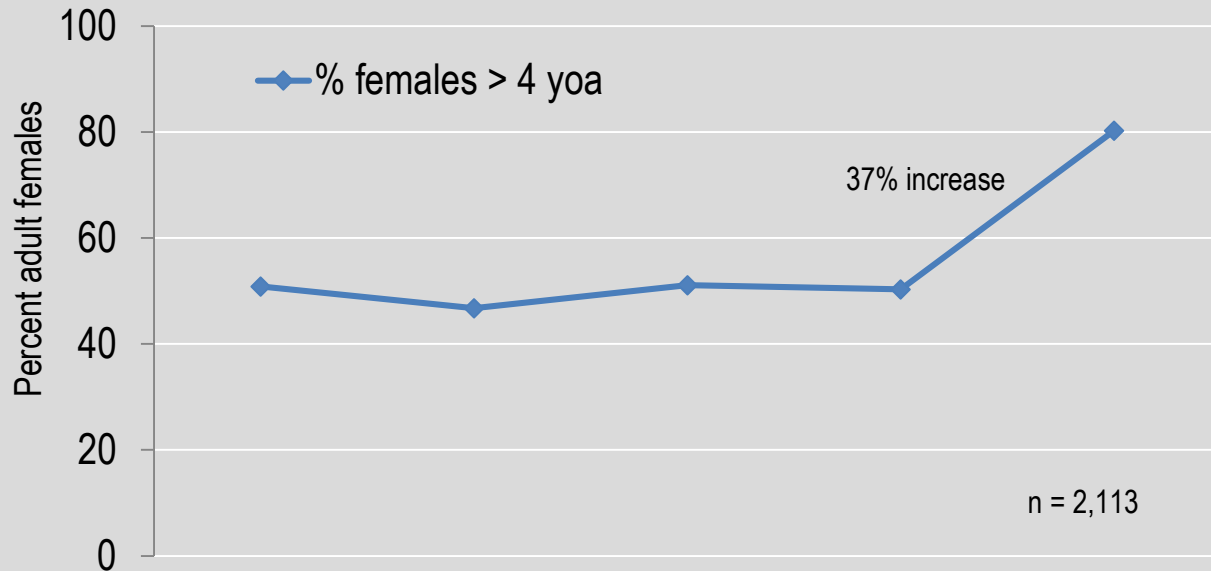
Average and max age of male harvest in Unit 9E by decade



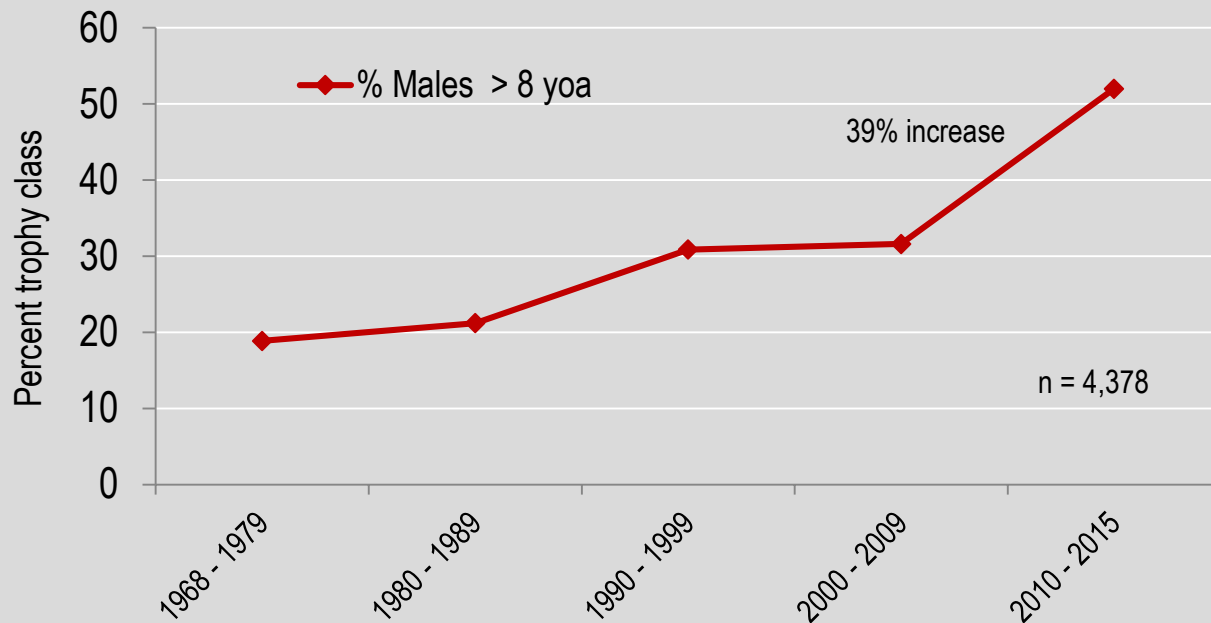
Average and max age of female harvest in Unit 9E by decade



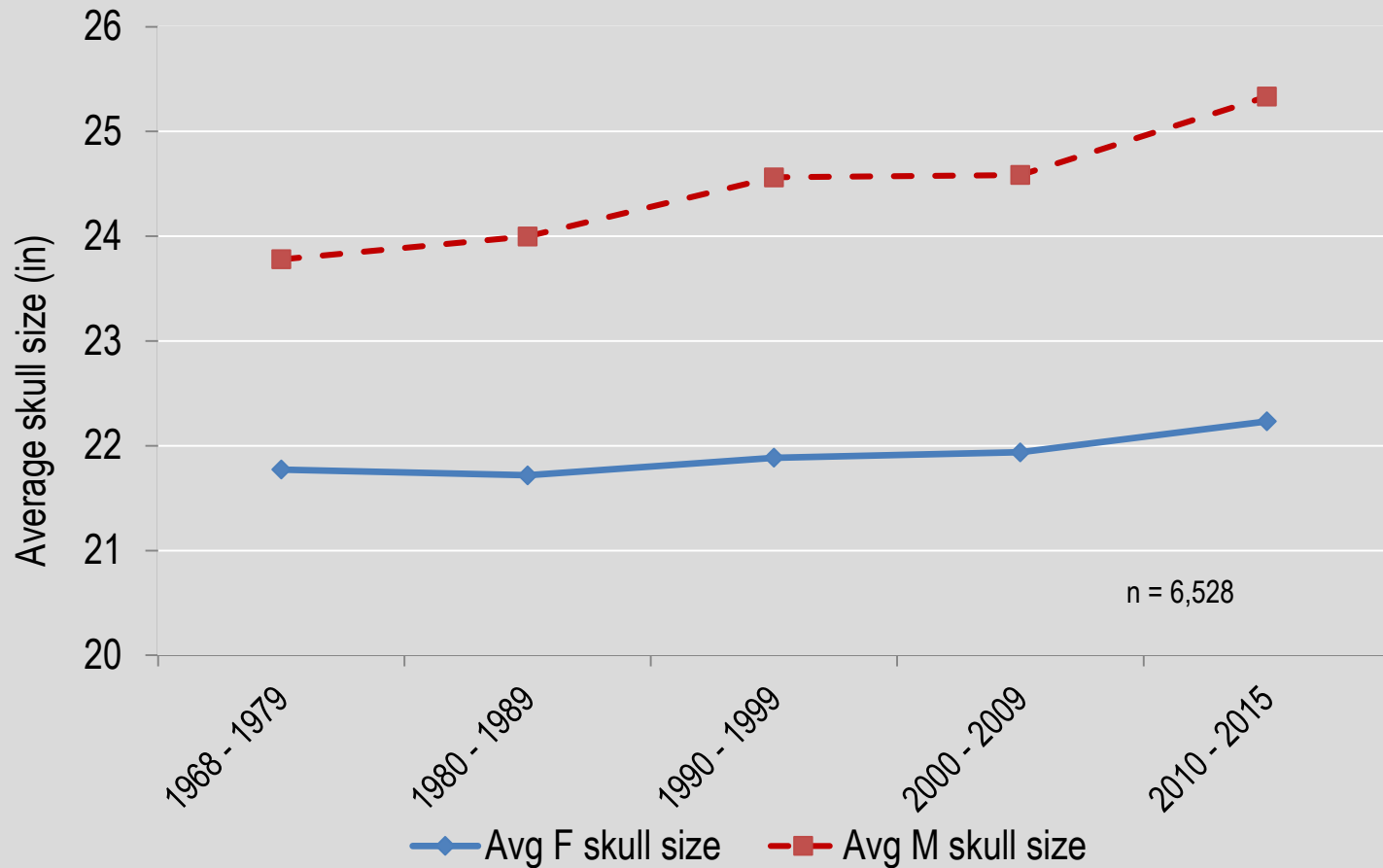
Proportion of adult females (> 4 yoa) in female harvest, Unit 9E



Proportion of trophy males (> 8 yoa) in male harvest, Unit 9E



Average skull size of brown bears harvested in Unit 9E



Considerations

- We agree with proponent; bear harvest should be reduced in Cinder-Meshik area
 - However, drawing hunts held small area rather than unit-wide adds much complexity
 - Hunts held on state lands only is overly burdensome to hunters
 - Difficult for enforcement
- Our concern for existing harvest level exists beyond proposed area to all of Unit 9E
 - Drawing hunts are one option to reduce harvest in 9E
 - A much simpler approach is to shorten seasons by 1 week, as we've done in the past

Proposal 133

- Unit 9E bear season was 2 weeks long during 11 of the last 28 open seasons
 - Oct 7 – 14 and May 10 – 25 ; 1973 – 1983, 1991 – 1997.
- The 2015 bear harvest in Unit 9E was at 1970s level.
- In 1976 biennial, two week seasons were implemented
 - Bear population was considered overharvested and depleted
 - Liberal seasons and bag limits since statehood
- We recommend returning to two week seasons until bear population recovers.

PROPOSAL 133

Public

Effect of Proposal

Reduce brown bear harvest in a portion of Unit 9E through use of drawing hunts.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation between residents and nonresidents
- Support a reduction in bear harvest in Unit 9E

Lake Iliamna AC:

No recommendation

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

No recommendation

PROPOSAL 134

Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal

Reduce season and bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 9.

Recommendation

Support

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)

Proposed Changes

Current regulations:

Unit 9

August 10 – April 30

20 per day, 40 in possession

Proposed regulations:

Unit 9

August 10 – February 28

10 per day, 20 in possession

Background

- Ptarmigan in Unit 9 have declined severely since 2014.
- Low density observed from Lake Iliamna to Unimak Island, a land mass of approximately of 25,000 square miles.
- The public has expressed ongoing concern over the decline.
- Contributions of ptarmigan wings from Unit 9 to the statewide wing collection program have declined significantly since 2015.

Background (continued)

- Possible causes:
 - Cold, rainy periods in June 2015 and 2016
 - These conditions have caused very high chick mortality in ptarmigan populations (research in Alaska).
- Relatively snow-free winters recently
 - Can increase mortality from lack of concealment from predators and thermal cover.
- Research in Alaska and Europe suggests ptarmigan populations can undergo additive mortality when hunted during the winter months.
 - During winter natural mortality is generally low.
- Hunting during April contributes to adult mortality on breeding grounds.

PROPOSAL 134

Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal

Reduce season and bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 9.

Recommendation

Support

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)

PROPOSAL 135

ADF&G/DWC



Effect of Proposal

Close the hunting season for Alaska hares in Units 9C, 9D and 9E.

Recommendation

- Amend and adopt
- C & T finding?

Lake Iliamna AC: Amend & Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Amend & Support (8-0)

Proposed Changes

Current regulations:

Unit 9

No closed season

No bag limit

Proposed regulations:

Units 9C, 9D and 9E

No open season

Proposed amendment:

Unit 9

Nov. 1 – Jan. 30

1 per day/4 per year

Voluntary or mandatory reporting by phone

Background

- Once abundant in Unit 9, Alaska hare is now at low density and patchy distribution on the Alaska Peninsula.
- Very little is known about the Alaska hare:
 - Alaska hares are not highly productive - they have only one, relatively small litter of leverets per year;
 - Similar to more long-lived, K-selected species?
- We currently do not monitor Alaska hare populations and have no estimates of abundance.
- The low density in Unit 9 is of biological concern.

Background (continued)

- Reporting requirement by successful hunters would contribute information to research effort.
- Currently the department is reaching residents with educational information on Alaska hares.
 - Provided means to report observations to the Small Game Program.
- Efforts are underway by the department Implement abundance monitoring within the next 3-4 years.
- Recommend to close end of January (last day of month instead of first day).

PROPOSAL 135

ADF&G/DWC

Effect of Proposal

Close the hunting season for Alaska hares in Units 9C, 9D and 9E.

Recommendation

- Amend and adopt
- C & T finding?



Lake Iliamna AC:

Amend & Support (5-0)

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

Amend & Support (8-0)