Black Bear Management Report and Plan, Game Management Unit 5:

Report Period 1 July 2013–30 June 2018, and

Plan Period 1 July 2018–30 June 2023

Roy Churchwell

2020

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation

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Species management reports and plans provide information about species that are hunted or trapped and management actions, goals, recommendations for those species, and plans for data collection. Detailed information is prepared for each species every 5 years by the area management biologist for game management units in their areas, who also develops a plan for data collection and species management for the next 5 years. This type of report is not produced for species that are not managed for hunting or trapping or for areas where there is no current or anticipated activity. Unit reports are reviewed and approved for publication by regional management coordinators and are available to the public via the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's public website.

This species management report and plan was reviewed and approved for publication by Stephen Bethune, Acting Management Coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Conservation.

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Cover Photo: The glacier phase black bear is sometimes found in the Yakutat area. ©2012 Sue Thomas, used by permission (ADF&G photo release 12003).

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Purpose of this Report

This report provides a record of survey and inventory management activities for black bears in Game Management Unit 5 for the 5 regulatory years 2013–2017 and plans for survey and inventory management activities in the following 5 regulatory years 2018–2022. A regulatory year (RY) begins 1 July and ends 30 June (e.g., RY13 = 1 July 2013–30 June 2014). This report is produced primarily to provide the agency's staff with data and analysis to help guide and record its own efforts but is also provided to the public to inform it of wildlife management activities. In 2016 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G, the department) Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) launched this 5-year report type to more efficiently report on trends and to describe potential changes in data collection activities over the next 5 years. It replaces the black bear management report of survey and inventory activities that was previously produced every 3 years.

I. RY13–RY17 Management Report

Management Area

The Unit 5 management area is 5,800 mi^2, including the mainland Gulf of Alaska coast from Cape Fairweather to Icy Bay and inland to the Canadian border (Fig. 1). Unit 5 is divided into 2 administrative units. Unit 5A is from Cape Fairweather to Yakutat Bay. Some management on the Yakutat Forelands within Unit 5A is split into west of and east of Dangerous River because of differences in access to these areas. The area west of Dangerous River is close to Yakutat with more road and river access compared to the area east of the Dangerous River, which is more remote and is often accessed by aircraft or boat. Unit 5B from Yakutat Bay to Icy Bay is also remote and mostly accessed by aircraft or boat. Yakutat is the only municipality in Unit 5 (population 600), and the major economic drivers are fishing, logging, and jobs with Native organizations, or municipal, state, and federal government. Icy Bay currently (2019) has an active timber sale. Nearly all of Unit 5A is in either the Tongass National Forest, Glacier Bay National Park, or Glacier Bay National Preserve. The Park was established in 1925. Almost all of Unit 5B is in Wrangell–St. Elias National Park and Preserve, which was established in 1980 by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

The entire Yakutat Forelands between the coast and ice fields is potentially good black bear habitat. The forelands contain a variety of habitats, including open sedge meadows, willow flats, mixed stands of spruce and cottonwood, thick stands of spruce and hemlock, riparian stream corridors, beach fringes, and mountainous regions. These habitats contain vegetative forages such as grasses, sedges, devil's club, skunk cabbage, cow parsnip, blueberries, salmonberries, strawberries, and cranberries, to name a few. In addition, the forelands are rich in salmon, including sockeye, chum, pink, chinook, and coho. Streams containing salmon are distributed throughout the forelands, and bears have widespread access to fish. There are also eulachon present in some streams during the early spring. Calf moose might provide additional feeding opportunities in the spring; the forelands harbor an estimated 600–800 moose. In spite of this apparently productive habitat for black bears, they are common only near the mountainous terrain due to the presence of numerous brown bears in the remainder of the area.

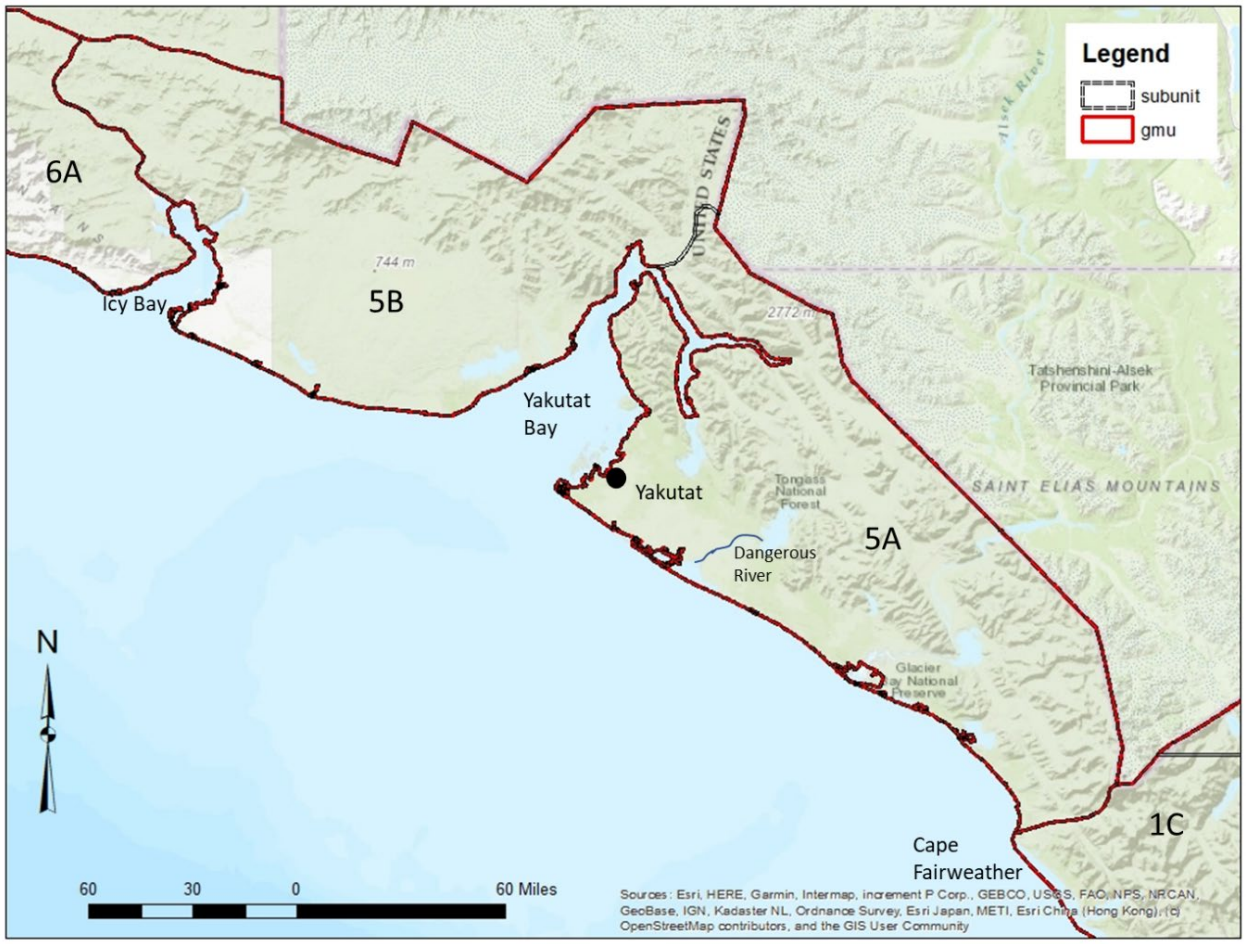

Figure 1. Unit 5 from Cape Fairweather to Icy Bay and inland to the Canadian border.

Unit 5 area has a subarctic climate with temperate rainforests. The average January high temperate is 34°F and the August high temperature is 61°F. Yakutat is considered one of the wettest towns in the state, recording an average annual precipitation of 155 inches, including 150 inches of snow that falls between November and April.

Summary of Status, Trend, Management Activities, and History of Black Bear in Unit 5

Black bears are an important harvest species for Unit 5. Both resident and nonresident hunters focus mainly on the spring hunt because access to black bears is easier in the spring when they feed on new spring vegetation on beaches and hillsides. In the fall bears are more likely to be on hard-to-access salmon streams and berry patches. The glacier (gray color phase) black bear is a prized trophy big game animal that is more commonly found in Unit 5 than any other area of Southeast Alaska. In Unit 5, 2 or 3 of these unique bears are harvested annually, averaging 11% of the harvest (Scott 2014). Hunters from across the United States and internationally come to hunt glacier bears. Historically more than 50% of the hunt included nonresident participation; however, more recently local residents have made up a greater proportion of hunt participants (Scott 2014).

In Unit 5B black bear presence is low and only a few bears have been harvested there since recordkeeping began in 1972. The low density is likely due to a lack of habitat and the presence of brown bears displacing black bears in the available habitat.

Most black bear harvest occurs on the beaches and foothills of Unit 5A. While the Yakutat Forelands contains high quality black bear habitat, the presence of a large brown bear population displaces black bears in this area (Barten 2008). Because of competition with brown bears, the 1.5 bears/mi^2 used to estimate the black bear population in Unit 1C (based on Poelker and Hartwell 1973) is probably not applicable here. Considering the presence of brown bears, department biologists estimated the black bear population to be 600 bears in Unit 5A (Barten 2008).

The hunting season has been the same since statehood with season dates 1 September–30 June. The bag limit for resident hunters has always been 2 bears, but only 1 blue or glacier phase bear. However, few resident hunters take a second black bear (Ball 1979). The nonresident bag limit was reduced to 1 bear in 1990. The use of dogs to hunt black bears has been allowed since 1996, but to our knowledge a permit to use this method has not been issued in Unit 5. Similarly, bear baiting is also legal, but not a method that is used (Barten 2008). Starting in 1996, hunters were required to salvage the edible meat from their kill during the period 1 January through 31 May. Since 2009 harvest tickets have been required to harvest black bears (Scott 2011). Managers hoped to gain unsuccessful hunter information with harvest tickets, but so far these data have proven to be unreliable because of a lack of reporting. The harvest information does not often match sealing data; thus, harvest ticket data are not typically used in management reports.

In some areas of Southeast Alaska bear and garbage issues are common, but this is less frequent in the rural communities because locals often take care of bear issues without reporting them to the ADF&G (Barten 2002). Poaching is not thought to be a problem in these areas even though reporting of bear/human interactions is low. Even though brown bears are common, black bears are sometimes observed at the community dump (Barten 2002). Bears were excluded from the dump with an electric fence for a short period, but the community was unable to maintain the fence (A. Crupi, DWC wildlife biologist, personal communication) and bear use of the landfill continues.

Management Direction

Existing Wildlife Management Plans

The most recent formally adopted plan was the Southeast Alaska black bear management plan included in wildlife management plans for the region that were developed in 1976 (ADF&G 1976). Management objectives as adapted through the years since then based on public input and Board of Game action are documented in previous black bear species management reports for Unit 5.

Goals

1. To provide for a sustainable harvest of black bear in Unit 5.
2. To provide the greatest opportunity to participate in hunting of black bear in Unit 5.

CODIFIED OBJECTIVES

Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses

The Alaska Board of Game has made a positive finding for customary and traditional use of black bears in Unit 5 and in November 2008 set 5–10 black bears as the amount necessary for subsistence (ANS; 5 AAC 99.025(a)(2)).

Intensive Management

Not applicable.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Maintain a 3:1 male to female ratio in the harvest.
- Maintain a mean annual male skull size (length plus width) of at least 17.0 inches.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Population Status and Trend

ACTIVITY 1.1. Monitor the population of black bears in Unit 5.

Data Needs

Population estimates are not available for Unit 5 black bears. Information obtained during sealing cannot be used to measure population trends. Although harvest information gained from sealing records such as skull size, age, and sex ratios, may provide some indication of population change, correlations between these measures and the population will continue to elude us in the absence of accompanying hunter effort data. Research is needed to identify population indices that allow us to better assess population trends and harvest sustainability.

Methods

Not applicable

Results and Discussion

There are no population studies on black bears in Unit 5. Population size or density estimates are difficult to obtain and have not been attempted in Unit 5. The species generally inhabits forested areas, where aerial surveys are impractical, and vast remote areas also make studies difficult and expensive. Barten (2008) provided an estimate of 600 black bears in Unit 5. This estimate is based loosely on black bear densities of 1.4 mi^2 bears observed in western Washington State (Poelker and Hartwell 1973). We believe minimum densities in mainland Southeast Alaska are slightly higher than the numbers found in the Washington study area. Although 1.5 mi^2 density is used in Unit 1C, it is probably too high for the number of Unit 5 black bears due to their displacement from some habitats by brown bears. Additional black bear population research is needed to better estimate black bear densities in the presence of brown bears and the overall population in Unit 5.

Recommendations for Activity 1.1. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is not assessing population status or trend of black bears in Unit 5. Harvest indicates a stable population and we do not recommend any changes to current monitoring during this reporting period.

2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring and Regulations

ACTIVITY 2.1. Monitor black bear harvest through sealing records.

Data Needs

Since 1972, all black bears legally harvested in Unit 5 have been sealed. During sealing, data on skull size, age, and harvested sex ratio are collected and the biological data used to monitor the health of the bear population.

Methods

ADF&G staff or state-appointed sealers collected data through the sealing of hides and skulls of black bears. The sealers recorded location and date of harvest, if previously captured, method of take, transportation mode, sex, age, and skull width and length. Sealing must be conducted by staff or a sealer within 30 days of the kill. These data are entered into an ADF&G database (WinfoNet). Harvest data were summarized by regulatory year.

Season and Bag Limit

Season	Bag Limit
1 Sep–30 Jun	Resident hunters: 2 bears, not more than 1 of which may be a blue or glacier bear
1 Sep–30 Jun	Nonresident hunters: 1 bear

Results and Discussion

Harvest by Hunters

Black bear harvest occurs along coastal beaches and in the foothills of Unit 5A (Wildlife Analysis Areas 4506 and 4508, Table 1), including coastal areas in Yakutat Bay as well as out the main road (Highway 10) from Yakutat to Dangerous River. Black bear habitat is prevalent, but the brown bears in the area exclude black bears from much of this habitat.

Black bear harvest during this reporting period was down substantially compared to the previous 5 years (Table 2). This reporting period (RY13–RY17) had a minimum harvest of 2 bears and a maximum harvest of 14 bears with an average of 7.6 bears each year. The previous 5-year period (RY08–RY12) had a minimum harvest of 7 bears, maximum of 14 bears, and average of 11 bears. The harvests of 2 bears in 2015 and 3 bears in 2017 are the lowest harvests since 7 bears were harvested in 2012. This might be attributed to a decline except that the high harvest of 14 bears occurred in 2016 between the 2 low harvest years.

The stability of the bear population is tracked through male skull size, age, and harvest sex ratio from data collected during sealing (Table 2). Male skull size averaged 17.8 inches and age averaged 11.3 years during this reporting period. During the previous reporting period (RY08–RY12) skull size was 17.2 inches and average bear age was 7.6 years. The 17.8-inch average is greater than the recommended 17.0 inches in the management objectives, indicating there are adult bears available for harvest. Also, the number of harvested female bears is low. However, the sample size is small, and the estimates of skull and age are more variable than expected and may not be representative of the population.

Permit Hunts

There are no permit hunts for black bears in Unit 5.

Table 1. Unit 5, Alaska, black bear harvest from Wildlife Analysis Areas (WAA), regulatory years 2008–2017.

	Regulatory year										
WAA	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
2101	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2102	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
4503	1	1	0	3	0	5	0	0	4	0	14
4504	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4505	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
4506	9	5	1	4	2	1	1	0	1	1	25
4508	2	4	4	5	4	5	5	2	9	2	42
4607	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	13	8	13	7	11	8	2	14	3	93

Table 2. Unit 5, Alaska, black bear harvest, mean skull size, and mean age for regulatory years 2008–2017.

Regulatory year		Harvest	Males	Females	Unk	Male				Female				Color Variant	
						Mean skull[a]	(*n*)	Mean age[b]	(*n*)	Mean skull	(*n*)	Mean age	(*n*)	Black	Blue
2008	Fall	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	ND[c]	ND
	Spring	14	13	1	0	17.6	12	7.8	13	14.8	1	0	0	ND	ND
	Total	14	13	1	0	17.6	12	7.8	13	14.8	1	0	0	12	2
2009	Fall	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	ND	ND
	Spring	13	11	2	0	17.6	11	8.5	10	15.8	2	12	2	ND	ND
	Total	13	11	2	0	17.6	11	8.5	10	15.8	2	12	2	11	2
2010	Fall	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	ND	ND
	Spring	8	7	1	0	16.9	8	6.3	8	15.4	1	5	1	ND	ND
	Total	8	7	1	0	16.9	8	6.3	8	15.4	1	5	1	6	2
2011	Fall	1	1	0	0	17.3	1	9.7	1	--	--	--	--	ND	ND
	Spring	12	9	3	0	17.8	8	10.3	8	15.7	3	11	3	ND	ND
	Total	13	10	3	0	17.8	9	9.7	9	15.7	3	11	3	9	4
2012	Fall	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	ND	ND
	Spring	7	4	3	0	16.2	4	5.5	4	15.1	3	7.3	3	ND	ND
	Total	7	4	3	0	16.2	4	5.5	4	15.1	3	7.3	3	4	3
2013	Fall	1	0	1	0	--	--	--	--	17.2	1	13	1	ND	ND
	Spring	10	9	1	0	17.5	8	9.25	8	17.6	1	9	1	ND	ND
	Total	11	9	2	0	17.5	8	9.25	8	17.4	2	11	2	10	1
2014	Fall	1	1	0	0	15.8	1	3	1	--	--	--	--	ND	ND
	Spring	7	7	0	0	17.8	7	12.7	7	--	--	--	--	ND	ND
	Total	8	8	0	0	17.7	8	11.5	8	--	--	--	--	7	1

Regulatory year		Harvest	Males	Females	Unk	Male				Female				Color Variant	
						Mean skull[a]	(*n*)	Mean age[b]	(*n*)	Mean skull	(*n*)	Mean age	(*n*)	Black	Blue
2015	Fall	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	ND	ND
	Spring	2	2	0	0	18	2	11.5	2	--	--	--	--	ND	ND
	Total	2	2	0	0	18	2	11.5	2	--	--	--	--	2	0
2016	Fall	1	1	0	0	16.8	1	7	1	--	--	--	--	ND	ND
	Spring	13	12	1	0	17.5	12	10.6	12	15.8	1	17	1	ND	ND
	Total	14	13	1	0	17.4	13	10.3	13	15.8	1	17	1	12	2
2017	Fall	1	1	0	0	18.4	1	9	1	--	--	--	--	ND	ND
	Spring	2	1	1	0	18.6	1	19	1	16.2	1	--	--	ND	ND
	Total	3	2	1	0	18.5	2	14	2	16.2	1	--	--	3	0

[a] Mean skull size is measured in inches.
[b] Mean age is measured in years.
[c] ND = no data.

Hunter Residency and Success

Most of the hunters during this reporting period in Unit 5 were unit resident hunters (Table 3, average RY13–RY17 = 5.8 resident hunters), with 7 times more resident than nonresident hunters (average RY13–RY17 = 0.8 nonresident hunters). This was a change from the last reporting period (RY08–RY12) when resident and nonresident numbers were the same. Nonresident hunter participation was lower every year. Likely because nonresident participation was low to begin with, 0–2 nonresident hunters took bears in Unit 5 during each year of this reporting period.

Our data on the number of hunters hunting black bears seems to have declined over the analysis period with a high of 41 hunters in 2013 and a low of 23 hunters in 2017. The next lowest number of hunters was 29 in 2015 and the average for the period was 32.8 hunters/year.

With so few hunters participating in the hunt, it is difficult to get accurate values for days of effort put in to achieve success (Table 3). When comparing resident hunts during the reporting period with the previous period, effort increased more than 2 days/harvest (4.8 days from 2.0 days) and days to harvest for nonresident hunters decreased as well (3.5 days from 4.1 days).

Harvest Chronology

Most harvest in Unit 5 occurs in the spring (Table 2). Typically, only 1–2 bears are harvested in the fall, and in some years, there is no harvest in the fall. In the spring, bears are found in areas where harvest is easier and more feasible.

Transport Methods

Like many places in Southeast Alaska, boating is the most common mode of transportation for hunters in Unit 5. On average more than 4 bears or 58% were taken using boat transportation. Vehicle transportation was used for an average of 37% harvested bears and planes were used on average for 5% of the harvest (Table 3). No other methods were reported for this unit during this reporting period.

On average in this unit during this reporting period more hunters did not use commercial services than did (6.4 hunters compared to 1.2 hunters: Table 4). A similar pattern was observed in the previous reporting period (6.8 hunters compared to 4 hunters).

Other Mortality

There were no bears reported killed in defense of life or property (DLPs), car collisions, or euthanized by department staff during this reporting period in Unit 5. There was a bear skull found and reported below the Towah Creek bridge that was sealed, but there were no other bones found with it.

Table 3. Unit 5, Alaska, successful black bear hunter residency, hunter effort, and transportation method, regulatory years 2008–2017.

Regulatory year	Unit Resident		Other AK Residents		Nonresident		Total Effort		Transportation Method					
												Hwy		
	Hunters	Days	Hunters	Days	Hunters	Days	Hunters	Days	Plane	Boat	ORV[a]	Vehicle	Foot	Unk
2008	8	2.1	1	2	5	4.2	14	2.9	1	13	0	0	0	0
2009	6	2.2	2	1.5	5	3.4	13	2.5	2	8	1	2	0	0
2010	2	1	1	2	5	4.4	8	3.3	4	4	0	1	0	0
2011	6	1.3	1	6	6	6	13	3.7	3	9	0	1	0	0
2012	2	3.5	2	5.5	3	2.7	7	3.7	0	5	0	1	0	0
2013	8	1.5	2	5.5	1	5	11	2.3	1	7	0	3	0	0
2014	6	3.2	1	1	1	1	8	2.6	0	5	0	3	0	0
2015	2	14	0	--	0	--	2	14	0	0	0	2	0	0
2016	11	3.5	1	2	2	4.5	14	3.6	1	8	0	5	0	0
2017	2	2	1	3	0	--	3	2.3	0	2	0	1	0	0
2008–2012 Mean	4.8	2.0	1.4	3.4	4.8	4.1	11	3.2	2	7.8	0.2	1	0	0
2013–2017 Mean	5.8	4.8	1	2.9	0.8	3.5	7.6	5.0	0.4	4.4	0	2.8	0	0

[a] ORV = Off-road vehicle.

Table 4. Unit 5, Alaska commercial services used by successful black bear hunters, regulatory years 2008–2017.

Regulatory	Unit Residents		Other AK Residents		Nonresidents		Total Use			Registered
year	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Transport	Guide
2008	8	0	1	0	2	3	11	3	0	3
2009	3	3	1	1	2	3	6	7	1	3
2010	2	0	1	0	1	4	4	4	0	4
2011	5	1	0	1	3	2	8	5	0	3
2012	2	0	2	0	1	2	5	2	0	2
2013	7	1	1	1	0	1	8	3	1	2
2014	6	0	1	0	0	1	7	1	0	1
2015	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
2016	11	0	1	0	0	2	12	2	0	2
2017	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
2008–2012 Mean	4	0.8	1	0.4	1.8	2.8	6.8	4	0.2	3
2013–2017 Mean	5.6	0.2	0.8	0.2	0	0.8	6.4	1.2	0.2	1

Alaska Board of Game Actions and Emergency Orders

The Alaska Board of Game took no actions concerning Unit 5 black bears during this reporting period. We issued no emergency orders for the Unit 5 black bear season during this reporting period.

Recommendations for Activity 2.1

We will continue collecting bear sealing and harvest information. Although we do not fully understand the relationship between population estimates, age, and skull size this is the only information collected long-term to monitor black bear populations. Population monitoring using trail cameras and genetics is becoming more affordable, but these methods are not advanced enough that they could replace our current regional monitoring program using bear sealing. As a department we do not have a superior method for monitoring black bear populations, so we should continue collecting these data for monitoring.

3. Habitat Assessment–Enhancement

Currently, there are no activities to manage bear habitat in Unit 5.

NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS

Data Recording and Archiving

Sealing data are archived on WinfoNet back to 1972, including scans of the original data sheets back to 2000, and with some scans of previous years including the very early years. Hard copies from earlier dates are on file in the Douglas office.

Agreements

There were no relevant agreements during this reporting period.

Permitting

There were no relevant permits during this reporting period.

Conclusions and Management Recommendations

Black bear harvest was down, with the lowest harvests ever recorded during 2 of the years (2 bears harvested in RY15 and 3 bears harvested in RY17). However, the reporting period's highest harvest was between the 2 lowest years, when 14 bears were harvested in 2016. Along with the support of stable skull measurements and bear ages it appears that this decline in harvest is due to a decrease in hunting participation. Our data on the number of hunters hunting black bears seems to support this assumption with a high of 41 hunters in 2013 and a low of 23 hunters in 2017. The next lowest number of hunters was 29 in 2015 and the average for the period was 32.8 hunters/year. With so few bears harvested it is difficult to monitor the population. The bear population could increase or decline, but the harvest of 2–14 bears would not impact the overall population.

There is no concerted management effort for black bears in Unit 5 at this time. Without population estimates or reliable indices we do not have information on the population status for black bears in the unit to guide management decisions. Our best data are anecdotal comments from hunters, bear skull measurements, age determination, and the harvest sex ratio. Sealing data provide a robust data set on harvest back to 1972, but without data on hunter effort from unsuccessful hunters it is not possible to relate these data to the black bear population. Currently, unsuccessful hunters do have an opportunity to report on their black bear hunts through their harvest tickets, but reporting percentages are not high and harvest ticket information rarely matches the sealing data.

Based on historical black bear harvests in Unit 5 and the current decline in hunters and harvest, we do not believe harvest pressure is so heavy that it is approaching the limits of the harvestable surplus. Local harvest and competition with brown bears could still cause site specific declines. The interspecific relationship between brown bears and black bears in this area and throughout Southeast Alaska could be an interesting topic for research if funding becomes available.

There were no reported DLPs, car collisions, or bears euthanized by department staff during this reporting period in Unit 5. This is not uncommon in the smaller towns in Southeast Alaska where local residents often take care of their bear problems without reporting them to the department.

II. Project Review and RY18–RY22 Plan

Review of Management Direction

The existing management and goals appropriately direct the management of black bears in Unit 5. The management direction for Unit 5 ensures that black bears will persist as part of the natural ecosystem and ensures continued hunting and viewing opportunities.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

GOALS

1. To provide for a sustainable harvest of black bear in Unit 5.
2. To provide the greatest opportunity to participate in hunting of black bear in Unit 5.

CODIFIED OBJECTIVES

Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses

The Alaska Board of Game has made a positive finding for customary and traditional use of black bears in Unit 5 and in November 2008 set 5–10 black bears as the amount necessary for subsistence (ANS; 5 AAC 99.025(a)(2)).

Intensive Management

Not applicable.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Maintain a 3:1 male to female ratio in the harvest.
- Maintain a mean annual male skull size (length plus width) of at least 17.0 inches.

REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Population Status and Trend

We do not have plans to monitor black bear populations during RY18–RY22,

2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring

Activity 2.1. Monitor harvest through sealing records.

Data Needs

We should continue to monitor harvest through sealing to understand the potential impact of harvest on the Unit 5 black bear population.

Methods

Harvest data are collected during sealing of hides and skulls of black bears. Data recorded include location and date of harvest, method of take, transportation mode, sex, coat color, skull size, and if the animal was previously captured. Sealing must be conducted by ADF&G staff or a state-appointed sealer within 30 days of the kill. These data are entered into an ADF&G database (WinfoNet). Harvest data are summarized by regulatory year.

3. Habitat Assessment-Enhancement

Currently, there are no projects to manage bear habitat. There are logging operations that will occur during this period, including 1,600 acres that are to be harvested during the summer of 2019 located just southeast of Yakutat. This area includes land around the Yakutat landfill that is used by black bears. This project is on private land and bear habitat was not considered in the plan for logging the site.

NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS

Data Recording and Archiving

- Species wildlife management reports and plans and the management operational plan for Black Bear – Unit 5 will be stored online at: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=librarypublications.wildlifemanagement.
- Memos, data forms, and additional hard copies will be stored in the Juneau/Douglas Area Biologist files in Douglas.

Agreements

None.

Permitting

None.

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