

# SITKA AREA OVERVIEW

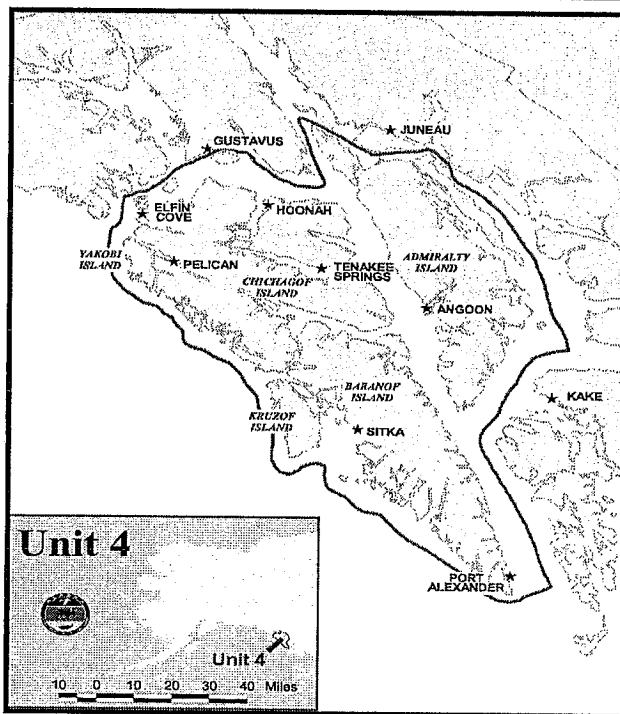
## GMU 4

BOARD OF GAME

NOVEMBER 2010

### **GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT 4**

- 5,800 square miles
- Population ~13,000.
- Admiralty Is. (1700 sq mi.), Baranof Is. (1870 sq. mi.), Chichagof Is. (2220 sq. mi.) and 5,000 miles of coastline
- Healthcare, government, seafood processing, services, education and tourism remain the major forces in the economy.



## Sitka Area Office



Commercial Fisheries: Lyndsey Jensen, Kristen Case

Sport Fish: Monica Matz

## BROWN BEAR



- Population density in excess of 1 bear/sq. mi.
- To date, harvest has been under 4% of population (~140-200 yearly)
- Nonconsumptive uses very important
- Problems / DLPs
- U4BBMT – adopted strategy 2000



Since 2000:

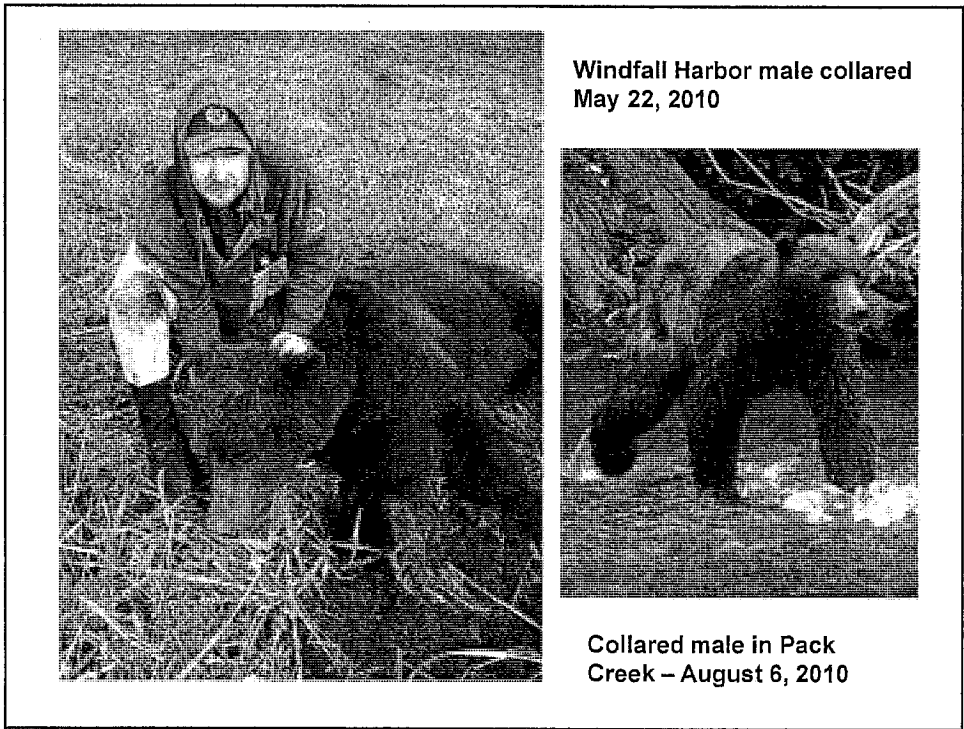
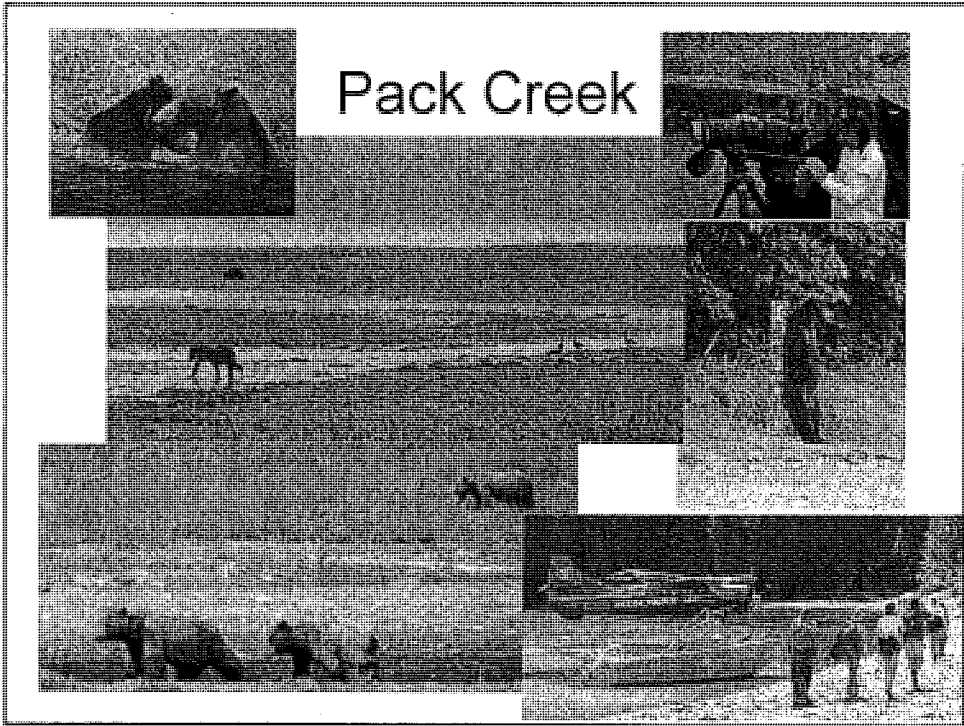
- Brown bear hunter harvest has averaged 145 bears/yr
- NR hunters averaged ~100 bears/yr
- R hunters averaged 46 bears/yr
- Average >725 permits issued/year
- DLP kills averaged 9 bears/yr

## Education

- Bear safety, behavior presentations (21)
- Hazing/safety protocols/wounding training with PDs



Sitka PD officers  
help with collared  
sow and 2 cubs in  
May 2010





•Winter of 2006-07 had record for snow depth. March 2007 snowfall cut the population from 45-80%

•Doe closure for NE Chichagof area issued Nov 07, Oct 08, Sept 09, Sept 10.

•NE Chichagof deer collaring project began in fall 2008

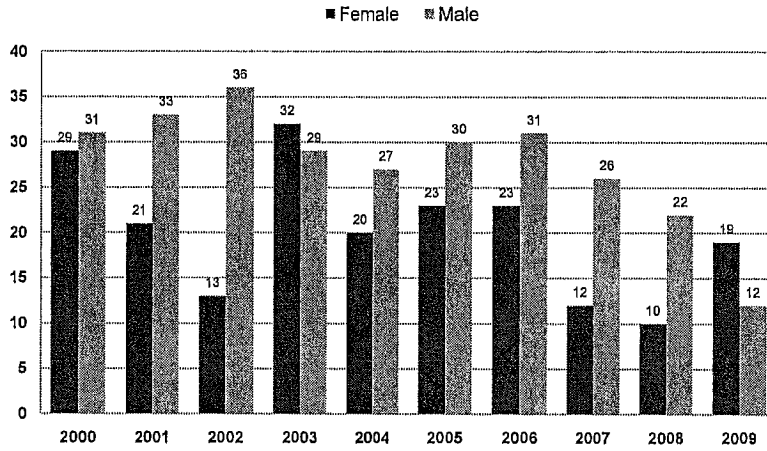
Except for NE Chichagof, and small portions of E Admiralty, W Chichagof, the bulk of Unit appears to have a rebounding population.



Since December of 2006:

- conducted a yearly average of 800 miles of shoreline deer condition surveys Jan-April
- conducted 12-22 beach mortality surveys annually
- captured/collared 27 deer in the Freshwater Bay complex - NECH

### Unit 4 RG150 Mt Goat Harvest 2000-09



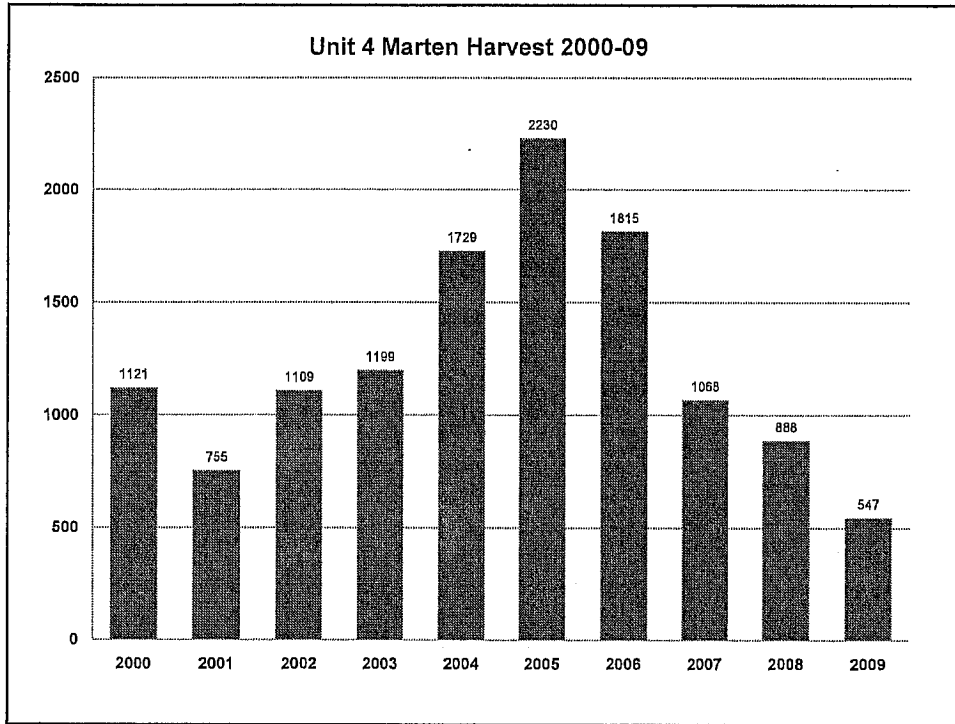
Unknown Sex Counted as Female  
 2002 Female Includes 1 UNK  
 2004 Female Includes 1 UNK  
 2005 Female Includes 3 UNK  
 2006 Female Includes 1 UNK

Year	Males	Females	Total	Points
2000	31 M	24 F	55 goats	78 points
2001	27 M	12 F	39 goats	72 points
2002	22 M	10 F	32 goats	74 points
2003	12 M	19 F	31 goats	86 points
2004	12	6	18	56 POINTS OR 48 FEMALES
2005	12	12	24	MALE = 1 POINT FEMALE = 2 POINTS

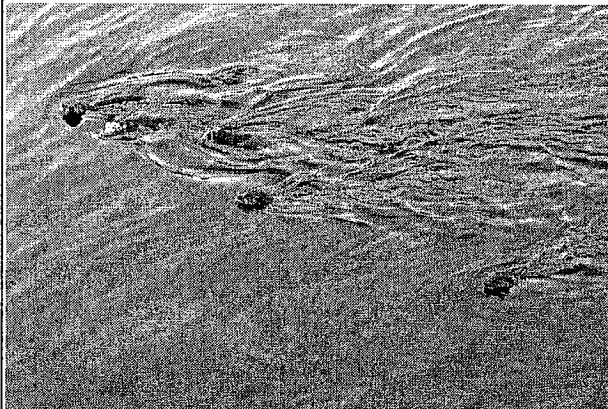
Residents take the bulk of the harvest.

Department published a Goat ID booklet and quiz to help hunters tell the difference between nannies and billies.

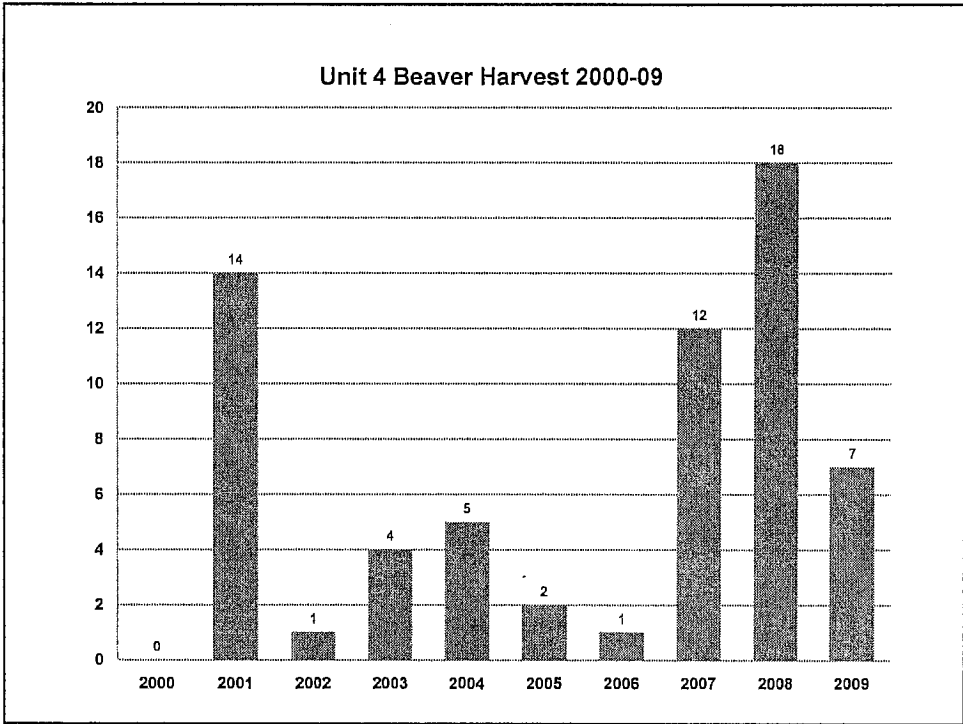
Wounding loss also remains a concern.



## RIVER OTTER



- Populations stable and healthy
- Annual harvest has declined by 40% since 2006 (higher marten value affected trapper effort)
- Fur value in 2009 was \$80-90.

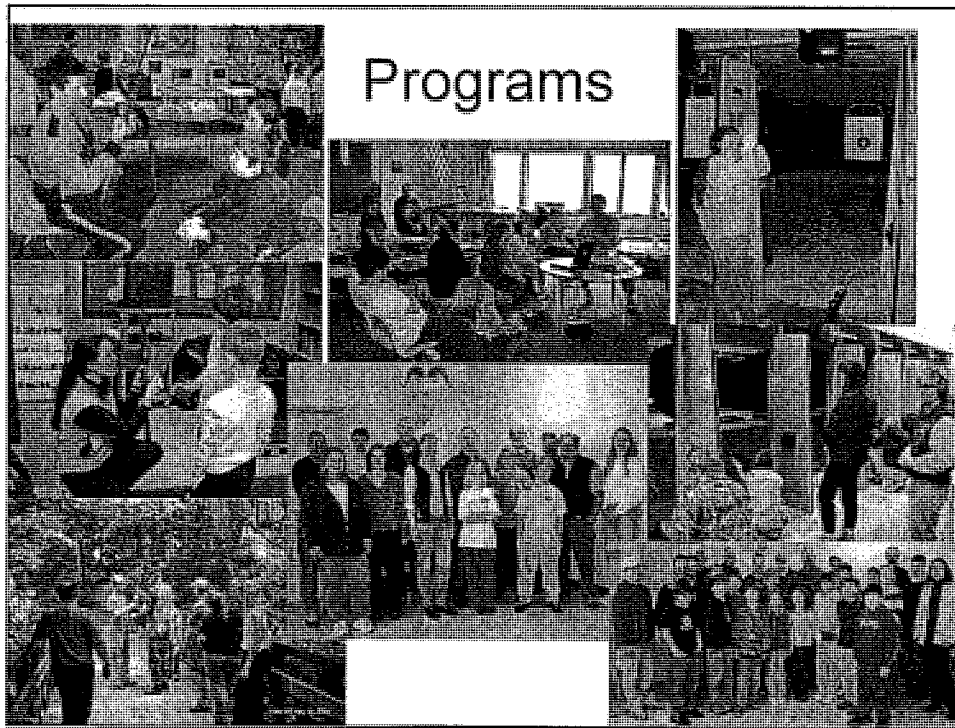


# MINK



- Previous low pelt prices have risen to >\$18
- No sealing required
- Populations generally at or near carrying capacity





## MANAGEMENT CONCERNS



Habitat alteration due to logging – amount and location of 2<sup>nd</sup> growth stands and their treatment

## Taser research project

Feasibility project with TASER, Inc. R&D to test effectiveness of ECDs on brown bears. Devices involve hand held (MX), self-contained 12 ga shotgun rounds (XREP), fixed-base remote (Shockwave) systems.

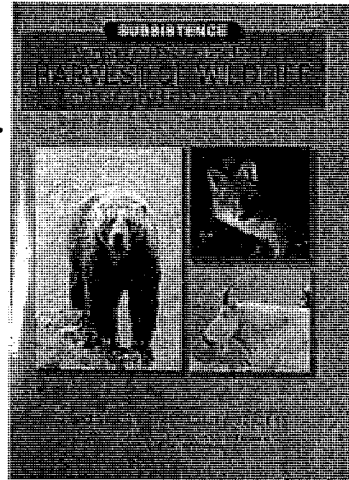


•Initial effort in Southeast Region was in August 2009 at the Yakutat landfill. Control group were radio-collared bears captured earlier in the year at the site. Work was videotaped and Taser, Inc. staff took back results to R&D to redesign hardware.

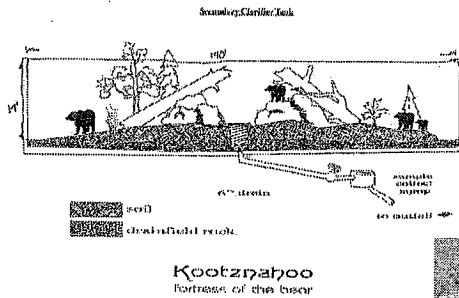
# MANAGEMENT CONCERNS



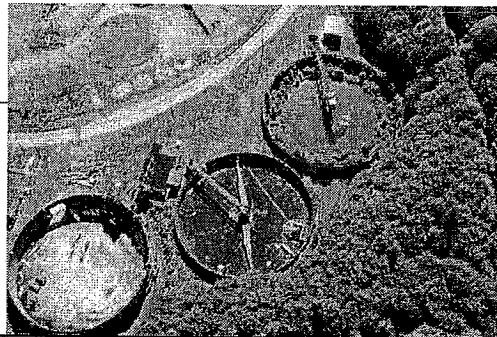
Confusion over state/federal regulations



## Fortress of the Bear



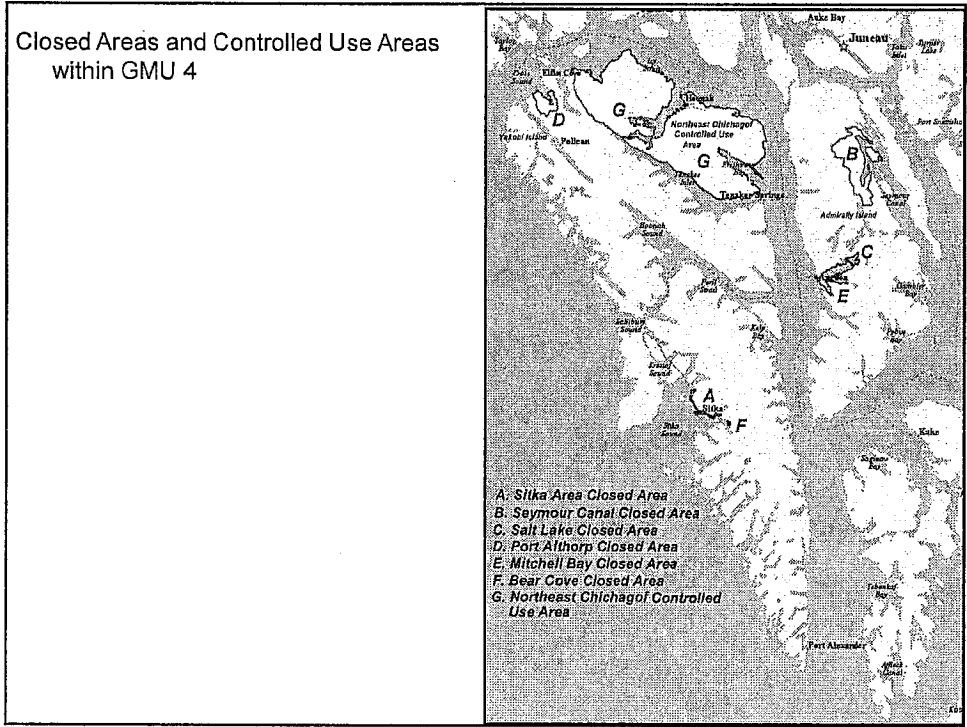
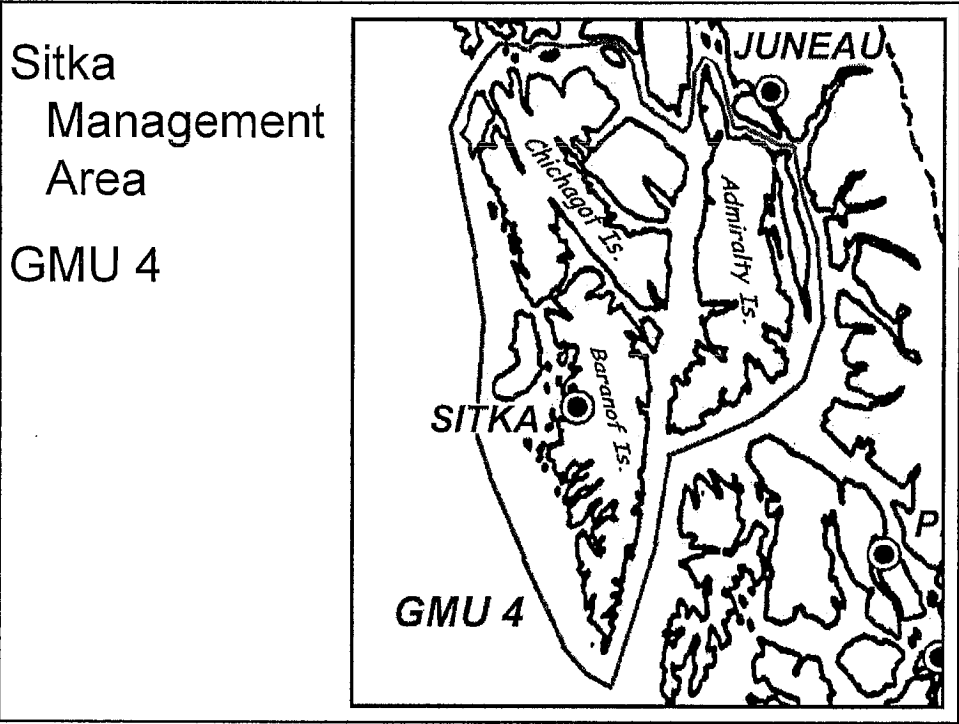
- Permitted in July 2007
- 2 COY entered the facility (July 27 and Sept 20, 2007)





QUESTIONS?





**Salt Lake Bay and Mitchell Bay  
Closed Areas**

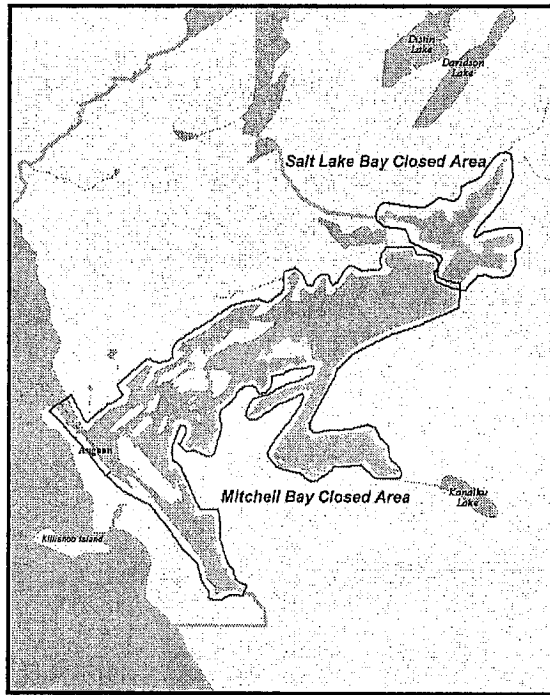
Salt Lake Bay is 4.2 sq. miles.

"Closed to the taking of bears  
within 1/4 mile of lake."

Mitchell Bay is 24.7 sq. miles.

"Closed to the taking of brown  
bears within 660' of mean  
high tide."

Both of these areas were  
originally part of the Thayer  
Mountain Reserve closed in  
1944 with modifications in  
1984 and 1992.

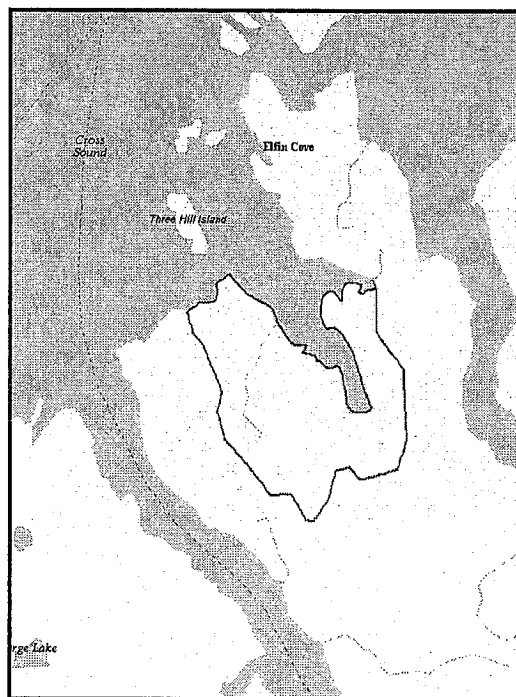


**Port Althorp Closed Area**

19.6 square miles

Originally established in  
1983

"Closed to the taking of  
brown bears."



## Proposal 28

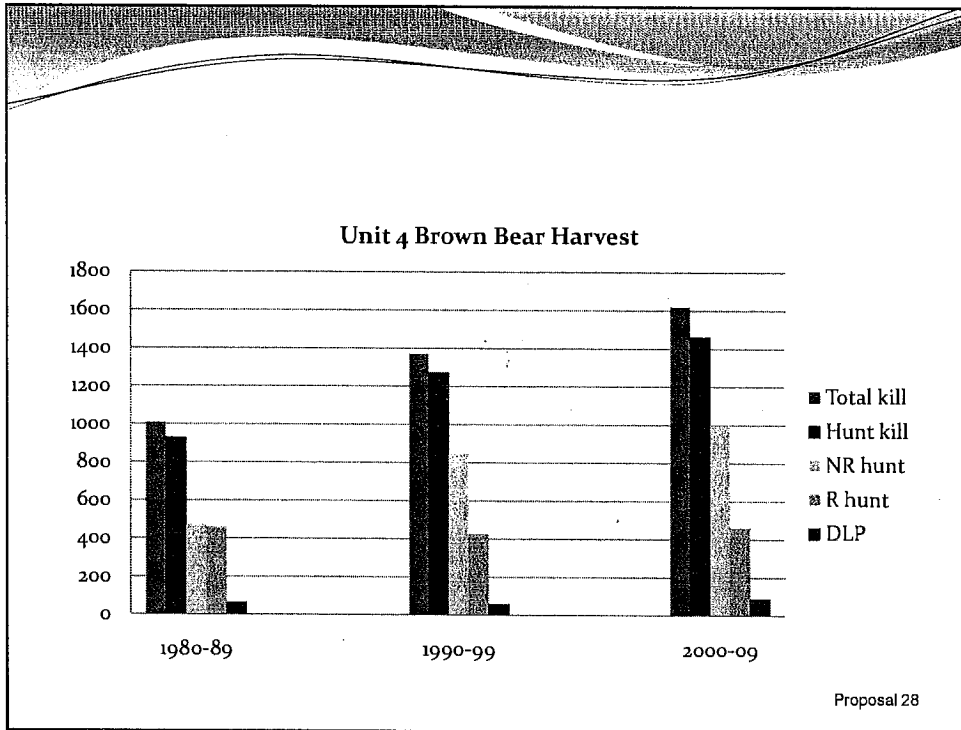
- **This proposal would modify department policy for setting allowable harvest of brown bear in Unit 4. Bears killed DLP would not count against the allowable harvest.**
- **Department Recommendation:  
Take No Action**

Proposal 28

## Discussion

- This proposal does not require action by the board. Setting mortality level guidelines are under the authority of ADF&G and can be set without regulatory action.
- The department manages brown bears in Unit 4 from the guidelines established under the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy adopted in 2000.

Proposal 28



## Discussion

- 2000-2009 DLPs have averaged 7.9/year

	Total	Aged	Ave Age	Age Range	Not Aged
• Males	53	36	7.72 yrs	1-25 yrs	17
• Females	24	17	9.23 yrs	1-24 yrs	7
• Unknown	10				

- Admiralty Island - 13 DLPs
- Baranof Island - 33 DLPs
- Chichagof Island - 41 DLPs

Proposal 28