

**FEDERAL AID  
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**BLACK BEAR  
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY  
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.:** W-33-1

**WORK LOCATION:** Statewide

**PROJECT NR.:** 17.0

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Game Management Regions 1, 2, and 3

**PROJECT TITLE:** The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations

**PERIOD:** 1 July 2002–2003

**REPORT DESCRIPTION:** This statewide performance report includes the three regions involved in black bear survey and inventory activities. Statewide and regional activities are listed before specific activities by herd and game management unit.

---

**The Status of Alaska Black Bears  
and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region I**

**Regionwide Activities**

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

This document satisfies the described activity.

Activity 2: Provide information to the Board of Game on black bear management.

Provided information at the January 2002 Board of Game meeting for the board's consideration of a proposal to eliminate the sealing requirement for black bears.

Activity 3: Monitor the hunt and sealing of all black bears harvested and presented for sealing.

Area biologists and other staff used data from bear sealing to track harvest trends and also collected biological samples as possible. The Kuiu Island nonresident harvest was monitored to keep the kill within the 120 bear guideline harvest level established by the board.

Activity 4: Measure all skulls and determine the sex of sealed bears.

Black bear skulls were measured and the sex determined as bears were sealed. Except in cases where the hunter damaged the skull or external sex identifiers were removed, this data was collected on every bear presented for sealing. At least 774 black bears were sealed in Region I during the period, including a minimum of 13 that were the result of road kills or DLP circumstances.

Activity 5: Draft a black bear management report.

The 3-year black bear management report was completed in spring 2002 and submitted to headquarters. Area biologists began collecting data to be used in the next management report, due to headquarters in spring 2005.

Activity 6: Coordinate with community decision makers on local bear issues.

Area biologists spent considerable time working with municipal leaders in towns like Juneau, Craig, and Kake regarding black bears in that community. In Juneau, the area staff spent a lot of time working with a city-appointed committee to address urban bear problems.

### **Unit 3**

Track the Kuiu Island nonresident harvest to ensure annual cap of 120 bears is not exceeded.

This was successfully done.

**Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands) = \$34.5**

**Submitted by: Dale Rabe, Management Coordinator**

## **The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II**

### **Regionwide Activities**

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Activity 2: Prepare a black bear management report.

Draft black bear management reports were prepared during spring 2002.

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on black bear management.

The Board of Game addressed proposals regarding black bears in Region 2 during its spring 2003 meeting.

Activity 4: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

Preliminary harvest information was available from sealing reports although records had not been recently updated.

Activity 5: Collect data from sealed bear skins and skulls, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

---

### **Activities by Unit**

#### **Unit 6**

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest was:

Males 119	Females 37 (25%)	Total 147
Note: tooth extraction not a requirement in Unit 6		

#### **Units 7 and 15**

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest was:

Males 185	Females 68	Total 253
-----------	------------	-----------

## Units 11 and 13

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest was:

Unit 13	Males 90 (67%)	Females 44 (32%)		
	Unk 1 (1%)		Total	135
Unit 11	Males 12 (75%)	Females 4 (25%)	Total	16

## Unit 14

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest was:

14A	Males 50	Females 23	Unknown 1	Total 74
14B	Males 19	Females 4	Unknown 0	Total 23
14C	Males 27	Females 6	Unknown 2	Total 35
14	Total Males 96	Females 33	Unknown 3	Total 132

## Unit 16

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest was:

16A	Males 40	Females 28	Unknown 0	Total 68
16B	Males 71	Females 24	Unknown 0	Total 95
16	Total Males 111	Females 52	Unknown 0	Total 163

## Unit 17

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest was:

Males 4	Females 4	Unknown 0	Total 8
---------	-----------	-----------	---------

## **Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:**

Weather prohibited completion of a brown/black bear survey technique investigation in northern Unit 16, 14B and 13E in spring 2002.

**Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): 46.7**

**Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Assistant Management Coordinator**

## **The Status of Alaska Black Bear and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region III**

### **Regionwide Activities**

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Wrote annual survey and inventory performance reports.

Activity 2: Draft a management report on black bear.

Drafted management reports.

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game and advisory committees on black bear management.

Provided information to the Board of Game and advisory committees as needed.

---

### **Activities by Unit**

#### **Unit 12**

Activity 1: Monitor blueberry abundance on permanent study plots to evaluate relationships between berry abundance and black bear harvest.

Monitored blueberry abundance within Tanana River valley using 4 permanent transects (5 1-meter<sup>2</sup> plots/transect). Data will be used to determine relationship between berry abundance and black bear harvest and DLP kills.

Activity 2: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Updated harvest tables from sealing certificates. Preliminary harvest = 42 bears. Interviewed successful hunters and made field observations of black bear population.

Activity 3: Monitor and analyze black bear bait station permit distribution.

Monitored distribution of hunters at 56 black bear bait stations and visited bait sites during and following the season to monitor activity.

Activity 4: Collect data from sealed bear skins and skulls, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Collected data from 42 sealed black bears (60% male). Extracted teeth for aging.

## **Units 19, 21A, and 21E**

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Monitored the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Activity 2: Monitor and analyze black bear bait station permit distribution.

Monitored 2 bait stations in Unit 21D and 2 bait stations in Unit 21A.

Activity 3: Collect data from sealed bear skins and skulls, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Collected data from sealed bear skins and skulls, determined sex and extracted a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters. Since mandatory sealing was initiated we have only sealed 5 black bears in the entire management area. Ages of bears have not returned from the laboratory at the time of this report.

## **Units 20A, 20B, 20C, and 20F**

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data

Compiled and analyzed harvest data.

Activity 2: Monitor and analyze black bear bait station permit distribution.

Analyzed black bear bait station permit distribution for 567 permits and 851 bait stations.

Activity 3: Collect data from sealed bear skins and skulls, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Collected data from 241 sealed black bears and analyzed harvest data by sex and age

## **Unit 20D**

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Monitored the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Activity 2: Monitor and analyze black bear bait station permit distribution.

Monitored and analyzed distribution of 49 black bear bait station permits.

Activity 3: Collect data from sealed bear skins and skulls, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Collected data from 27 sealed bear skins and skulls. Teeth are no longer being extracted for aging.

**Unit 20E**

Activity 1: Monitor blueberry abundance on permanent study plots to evaluate relationships between berry abundance and black bear harvest.

Monitored blueberry abundance along the Taylor Highway using 4 permanent transects (5 1-meter<sup>2</sup> plots/transect). Data will be used to determine relationship between berry abundance and black bear harvest and DLP kills.

Activity 2: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Updated harvest tables from sealing certificates. Interviewed successful hunters and made field observations of black bear population. Preliminary harvest = 22 bears.

Activity 3: Monitor and analyze black bear bait station permit distribution.

Monitored distribution of hunters for 2 bait station permits. Visited bait sites during and following the season to monitor activity.

Activity 4: Collect data from sealed bear skins and skulls, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Collected data from 22 sealed black bears (55% male). Extracted teeth for aging.

**Other activities funded by federal aid on this project:**

None.

**Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$13.4**

**Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Management Coordinator**

**Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):**

**State Share = \$23.65 Federal Share = \$70.95 Total Costs = \$94.6**