

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

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR: W-33-4

PROJECT NR: 17.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2005–30 June 2006

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Black Bear and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes statewide black bear survey and inventory activities. Regionwide activities are listed before specific activities by game management unit.

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

Regionwide Activities

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

Using field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with hunters, area biologists and other staff tracked harvest trends.

Activity: Collect data, determine sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Black bear skulls were measured, and the sex determined as approximately 1010 bears were presented for sealing. 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.

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

Area biologists spent considerable time working with municipal leaders in towns such as Juneau, Ketchikan, Craig, Hyder, and Petersburg regarding black bears in these communities in efforts to improve bear conservation measures. In Petersburg, the area staff worked with the local police department to coordinate responses to nuisance bear complaints within the community. In early 2006, a cooperative agreement between ADF&G and the Petersburg Police Department was renewed, outlining specific courses of action to

be taken by PPD officers and ADF&G area staff to provide timely, efficient, and safe responses to black bear concerns reported by the public. In Juneau, biologists continue to work with the city-appointed committee and refuse companies in placement of additional bear resistant garbage cans and development of an improved tipper cart lid.

Activities by Unit

Unit 1C

Activity: Reduce the number of nuisance bear problems and possible defense of life or property (DLP) kills resulting from improper refuse handling and disposal.

Efforts continued to encourage people to use tipper carts that have proven to be bear resistant as replacements to the standard 32-gallon trash cans. When able, biologists provided on-site bear habituation and food conditioning education to persons with waste management concerns. Department education staff coordinated with city personnel to produce and air updated information releases concerning waste management and bears for local radio stations.

Activity: Capture 1–2 black bears opportunistically and monitor their movements using GPS radio collars to identify problem areas and to assist educational efforts toward better refuse management.

No bears were captured and fitted with GPS radio collars during this period. Area biologists, city administrators, Juneau School District, and U.S. Forest Service personnel are currently planning the capture and collaring of up to 3 local black bears to provide additional information on the movements of black bears with the city of Juneau.

Unit 3

Activity: Monitor the Kuiu Island nonresident harvest.

During the report period, nonresident hunters harvested a total of 103 Kuiu Island black bears, including 21 during fall 2004 and 82 during spring 2005.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$56.7

Submitted by: Dale L. Rabe – Region I Management Coordinator

The Status of Black Bear and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

Regionwide Activities

Activity: Prepare a triennial black bear management report.

No work was accomplished on this activity because the management report was not due this year.

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

Harvest monitored with the following results:

Unit 6 — The preliminary 2005–06 harvest was:

Males 385 Females 85 (18%) Total 472

We conducted questionnaire surveys with 80 hunters from Unit 6D, including successful and unsuccessful hunters. Harvest rate was 0.4 bears per hunter.

Units 7 and 15 — The preliminary 2005–06 harvest was:

Males 339 Females 107 Unknown 2 Total 448

Unit 11 — The preliminary 2005–06 harvest was:

Males 12 (8%) Females 1 (92%) Unk 0 Total 13

Unit 13 — The preliminary 2005–06 harvest was:

Males 77 (69%) Females 35 (31%) Unk 0 Total 112

Unit 14 except 14C — The preliminary 2005–06 harvest was:

14A Males 45 Females 33 Unknown 0 Total 78

14B Males 23 Females 8 Unknown 0 Total 31

Unit 14C — The preliminary 2005–06 harvest was:

14C Males 24 Females 13 Unknown 0 Total 37

14C (DLP) Males 3 Females 3 Unknown 3 Total 9

14C (roadkill) Males 1 Females 0 Unknown 0 Total 1

Unit 16 — The preliminary 2005–06 harvest was:

16A Males 39 Females 16 Unknown 1 Total 56

16B Males 80 Females 33 Unknown 2 Total 115

Unit 16 total Males 119 Females 49 Unknown 3 Total 171

Unit 17 — The preliminary 2005–06 harvest was:

Males 6 Females 1 Total 7

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

Data collected, sex determined (see reports under activity above), and teeth extracted for aging from black bears presented for sealing. Information on other data gathered will be reported in future management reports.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$49.2

Submitted by: Gino Del Frate, Regional Management Coordinator

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

Regionwide Activities

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

Monitored harvest of 238 black bears through field observation, sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters and analyzed this data.

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

Monitored and analyzed distribution of 509 bait stations.

Activity: Collect data, determine sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Collected data, determined sex, and extracted a tooth for aging from 238 black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Activity: Provide black bear management information to state and federal regulatory processes.

Provided information to advisory committees throughout the Interior and to the Board of Game concerning black bear management.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$23.2

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Management Coordinator