

## 2020 Alaska Trapper Report: 1 July 2020-30 June 2021

Stephanie E. Bogle



Photo by Jacques Etcheverry





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**Cover Photo:** Brady Eggleston with a trapped wolverine. Photo by Jacques Etcheverry.

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Photo by Jacques Etcheverry

## Code of Ethics

### A TRAPPER’S RESPONSIBILITY

1. Respect other trapper’s “grounds” – particularly brushed, maintained traplines with a history of use.
2. Check traps regularly.
3. Promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching nontarget animals.
4. Obtain landowners’ permission before trapping on private property.
5. Know and use proper releasing and killing methods.
6. Develop set location methods to prevent losses.
7. Trap in the most humane way possible.
8. Dispose of animal carcasses properly.
9. Concentrate trapping in areas where animals are overabundant for the supporting habitat.
10. Promptly report the presence of diseased animals to wildlife authorities.
11. Assist landowners who are having problems with predators and other furbearers that have become a nuisance.
12. Support and help train new trappers in trapping ethics, methods and means, conservation, fur handling, and marketing.
13. Obey all trapping regulations and support strict enforcement by reporting violations.
14. Support and promote sound furbearer management.

This code of ethics is reprinted from the [Alaska Trappers Manual](#). The manual was created in a joint effort between the Alaska Trappers Association and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The manual is currently available from the Alaska Trappers Association for \$26.00, including shipping, or from some bookstores in Alaska.



Photo by Jason Hass



## Introduction

This *2020 Alaska Trapper Report: 1 July 2020–30 June 2021* contains information provided by trappers through the annual trapper questionnaire. On the following pages, you will learn how other Alaskans ran their traplines, what their primary target species were, how much effort they put into catching fur, how abundant furbearer and prey species were on their traplines, and how many furbearers they trapped. You will also find fur sealing summaries from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) as well as comments from trappers throughout the state.

In 2015, ADF&G began offering the questionnaire in an online format in hopes of improving the data. We continue to work to improve the questionnaire and the reports generated from information provided by trappers on the questionnaire. We hope trappers and managers alike can use the information in this report to enhance their efforts during future trapping seasons.

The accuracy and value of information provided in this report depends on the numbers of trappers who reply. In order to best reach trappers with this questionnaire, we identified potential trappers using licensing and fur sealing records. 2020 questionnaire invites were sent only to people who purchased a trapping license, hunt/trap combination license, or a hunt/trap/fish combination license authorizing them to trap in 2020. Of the 5,797 questionnaire invites mailed or emailed out, we received 533 responses, yielding a 9.2% response rate. The response rate decreased from the 15.3% response rate for the 2019 survey.

This year, trappers were assigned to the 5 standard regions found in Figure 1 based on their mailing address. If a trapper responded with his/her primary trapline in a region separate from their mailing address, we reassigned that trapper to the trapline's region. This was done in an attempt to accurately reflect trapping effort and locations. Throughout this report, regions will be listed by a roman numeral in place of description (e.g., Region I instead of Southeast): Region I = Southeast Alaska; Region II = Southcentral Alaska, Region III = Interior Alaska, Region IV = Central and Southwest Alaska, Region V = Arctic and Western Alaska.

As always, we maintain strict confidentiality. The names of individuals and references to specific traplines will not be included in any reports. We hope you find this report informative and welcome your suggestions for improvement.

Trapper questionnaire reports are mailed to all trappers who responded to the survey. Currently, this report and all previous reports can be found on our website:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=trapping.reports>

# A Profile of Trapping in Alaska

## TRAPPER INFORMATION

### Did you Trap?

This year, 5,797 questionnaire invites were mailed throughout the state and 533 responded for an overall response rate of 9.2% (Table 1). The response rate was highest from Region II and lowest from Region III. Statewide, 43.7% of respondents trapped during the 2020–2021 season, regulatory year (RY) 2020 (a regulatory year begins July 1 and ends June 30; e.g., RY20 = 1 July 2020–30 June 2021).

**Table 1. Response to 2020 Alaska trapper questionnaire.**

Region	Trapped	Did not trap	No response	Total invites	% Responding
I	35	35	664	734	9.5
II	44	134	1,554	1,732	10.2
III	60	51	1,360	1,471	7.5
IV	75	60	1,309	1,444	9.3
V	19	20	377	416	9.4
Total	233	300	5,264	5,797	9.2

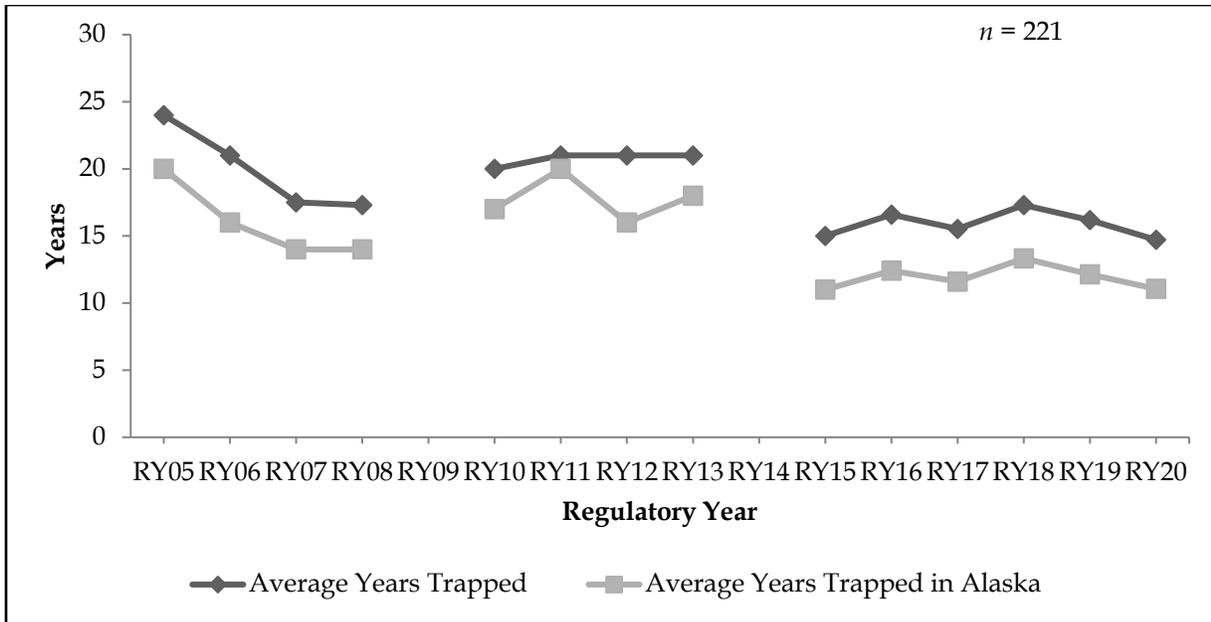
Statewide, of respondents who reported they did not trap in RY20 but reported when they last trapped ( $n = 291$ ), 26% ( $n = 77$ ) last trapped within the past 2 years, 43% ( $n = 125$ ) last trapped more than 2 years ago, and the rest (31%,  $n = 89$ ) indicated they were not trappers.

### Trapping Experience

During the RY20 season, active trappers statewide averaged 15 years of experience trapping and 11 years of experience trapping in Alaska (Fig. 2,  $n = 221$ ). This is down from the averages over the last 15 years, suggesting there's a younger group of trappers in the field. The average experience trapping in Alaska dropped slightly compared to in 2019. This suggests that Alaska may not be retaining trappers. No data were collected in 2009 or 2014. Trappers in Region I averaged the highest trapping experience overall (17 years trapping), and trappers in Region I also averaged the most experience in Alaska (14 years trapping).



Photo by Jesse Ross



**Figure 2. The statewide trend of trapper age and experience, Alaska, regulatory years 2005–2020.**

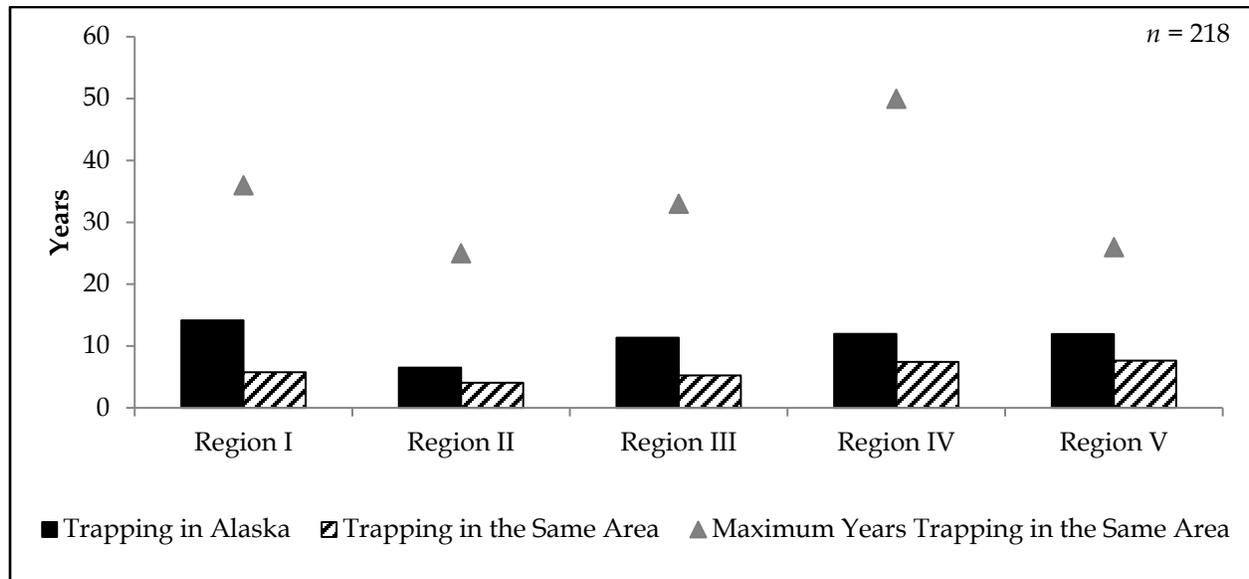


Photo by Winston Davies

## TRAPLINE INFORMATION

### Trapping Area

Statewide, trappers have trapped in the same area for an average of 6 years (Fig. 3,  $n = 218$ ). Trappers in Region V have spent the longest time trapping in the same area (8 years), while Region II trappers have spent the least amount of time in the same area (4 years). The longest time spent trapping in a single area was 50 years, reported by a trapper in Region IV.



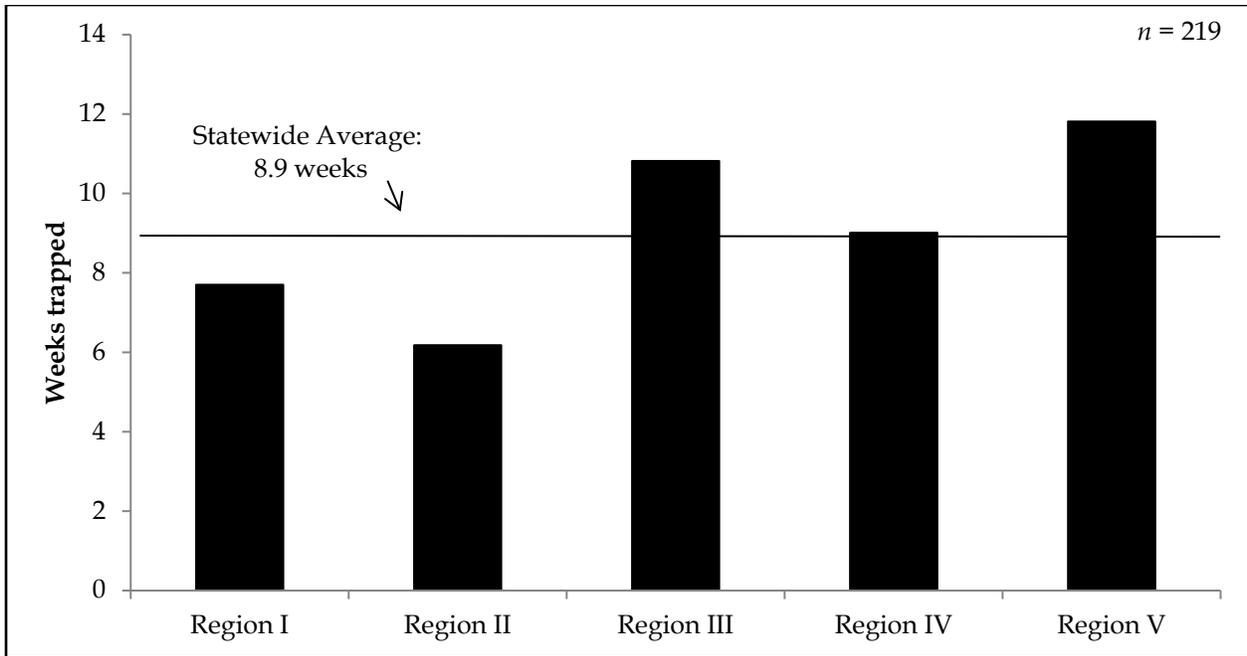
**Figure 3. Length of time spent trapping by region, Alaska, regulatory year 2020.**

### Trapping Frequency

During the RY20 season, trappers averaged 8.9 weeks of trapping (Fig. 4,  $n = 219$ ). Region V trappers spent the longest time trapping (average of 12 weeks), while Region II trappers spent the least amount of time trapping (average of 6 weeks). Statewide, 69% of trappers trapped 9 weeks or less.

### Trapline Transportation

Trappers who received the 2020 questionnaire were asked what their primary mode of transportation was for both traveling to their traplines and for running their traplines during the RY20 season. Statewide, the most common mode of transportation trappers used to get to their trapline(s) ( $n = 232$ ), was a highway vehicle 56% ( $n = 130$ , Fig. 5). Statewide, trappers also commonly reported accessing their trapline(s) using snowmachines ( $n = 53$ ). While highway vehicles were the most common mode of transportation to traplines in Regions I–IV, snowmachines were most frequently used to access traplines in Region V.



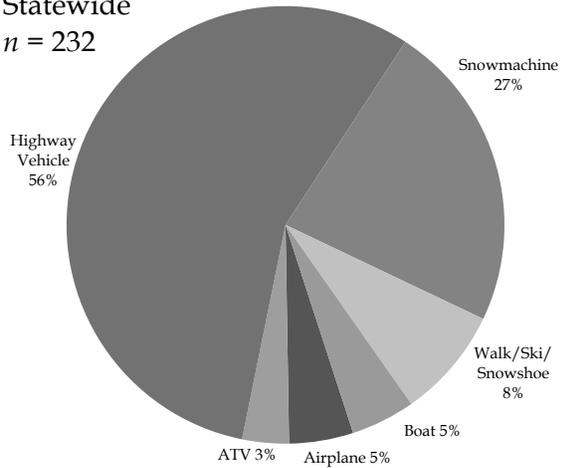
**Figure 4. Number of weeks Alaska trappers spent trapping during regulatory year 2020, by region.**



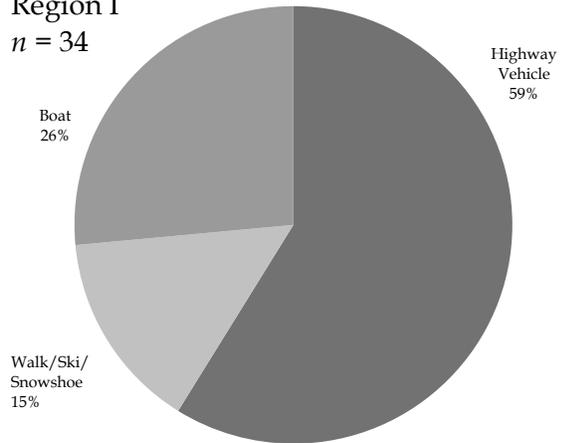
Photo by Ken Marsh

### Primary Mode of Transportation from Home to the Traps

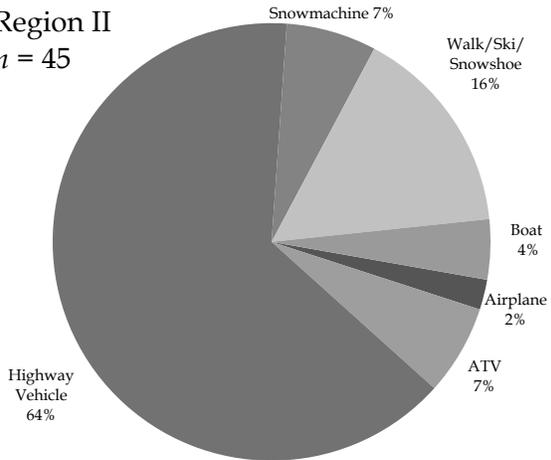
Statewide  
n = 232



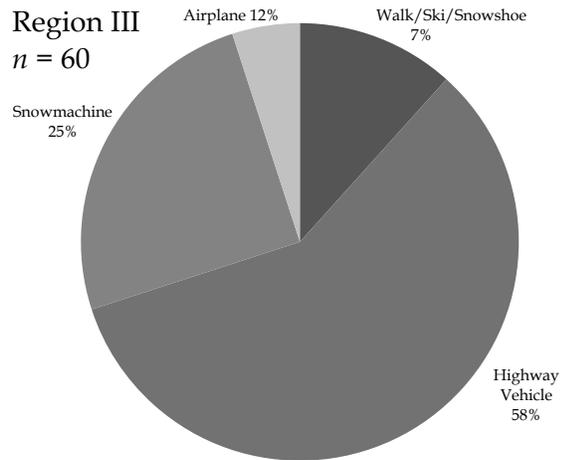
Region I  
n = 34



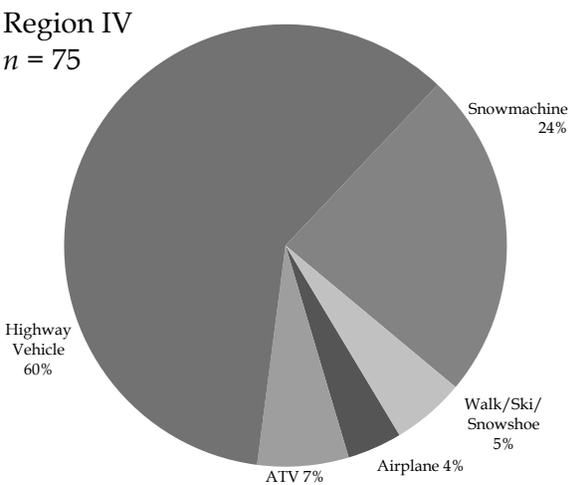
Region II  
n = 45



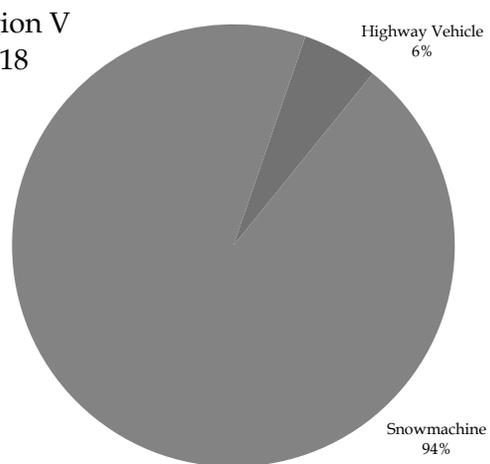
Region III  
n = 60



Region IV  
n = 75



Region V  
n = 18



**Figure 5. Primary mode of transportation used by Alaska trappers to reach their traps during regulatory year 2020.**

Statewide, the most common mode of transportation trappers used for running their trapline(s) ( $n = 231$ , Fig. 6), was a snowmachine 47% ( $n = 108$ ). Statewide, trappers also reported running their trapline(s) by walking, skiing, or snowshoeing 36% ( $n = 84$ ). While snowmachines were the most common mode of transportation for running traplines in Regions III–V, walking, skiing, or snowshoeing was the most common mode of transportation for Region I and II. Statewide, no trappers reported using a dog team to get from their home to the trapline or for running the trapline.

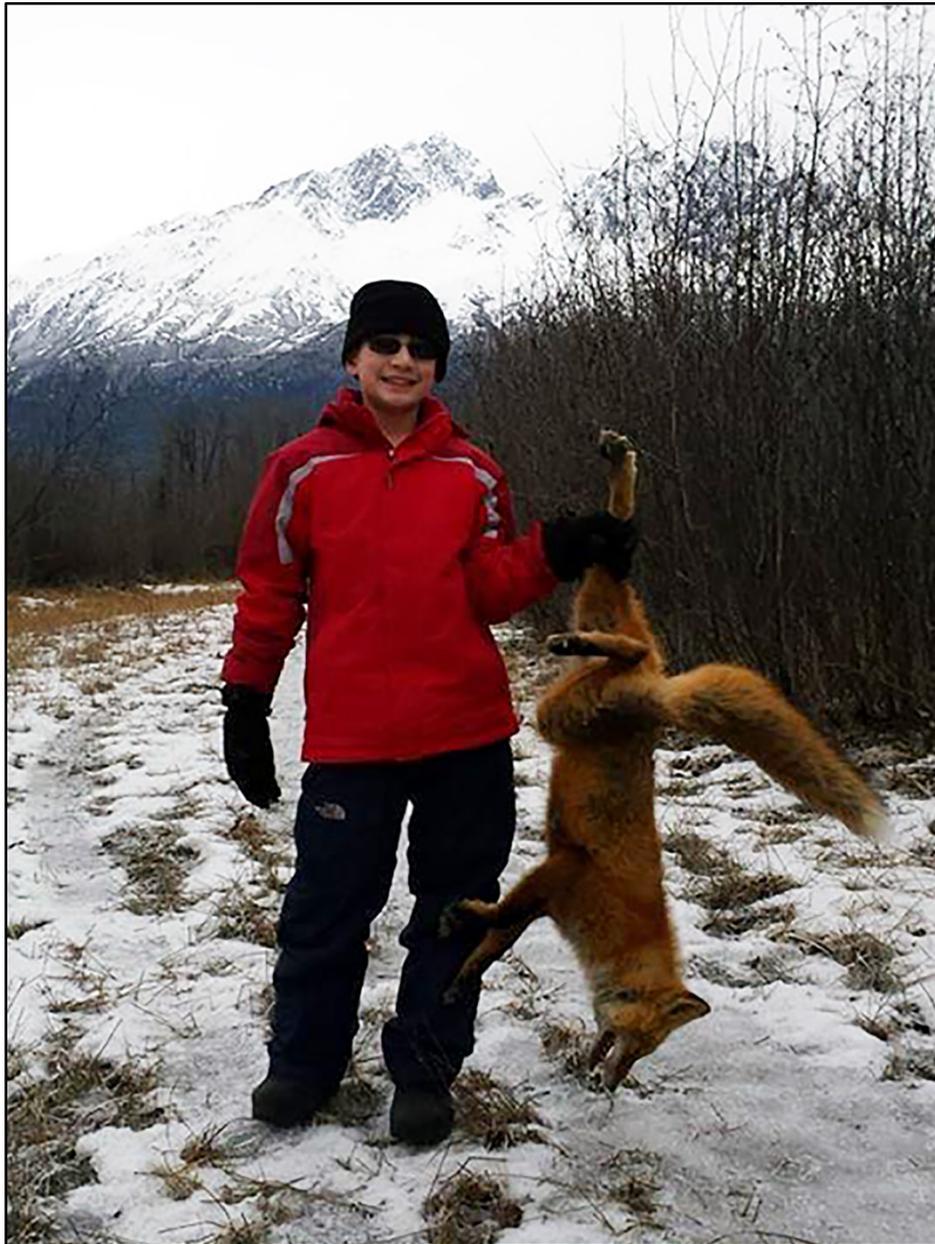
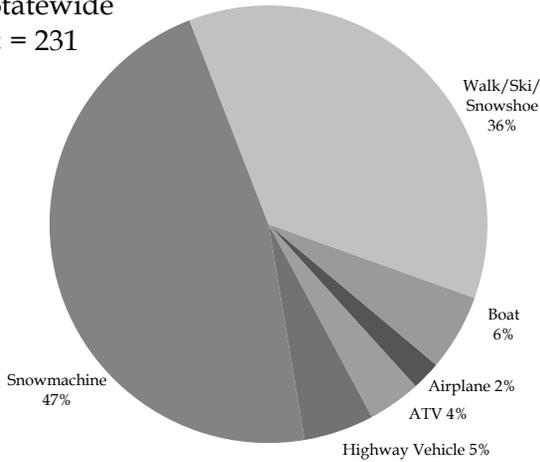


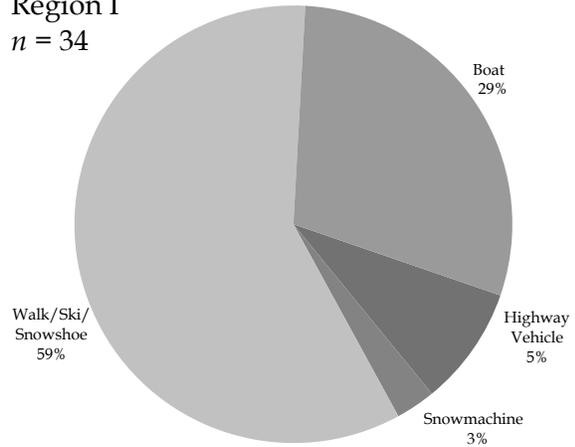
Photo by Rob Lafferty

## Primary Mode of Transportation Used to Run the Trapline

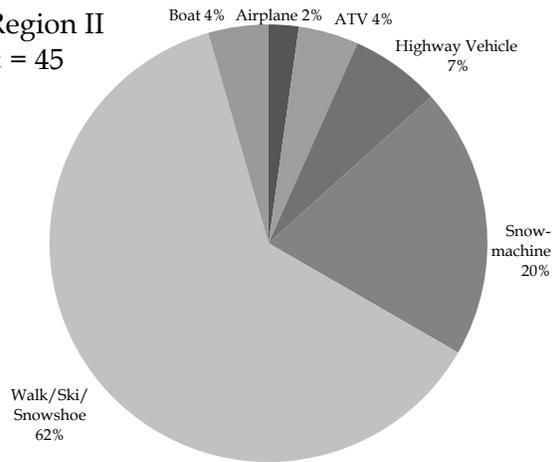
Statewide  
n = 231



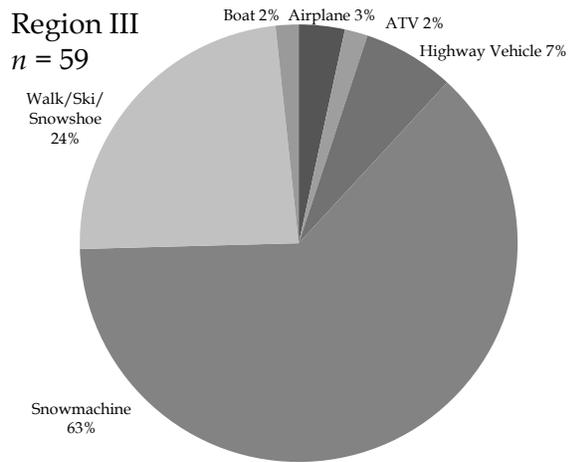
Region I  
n = 34



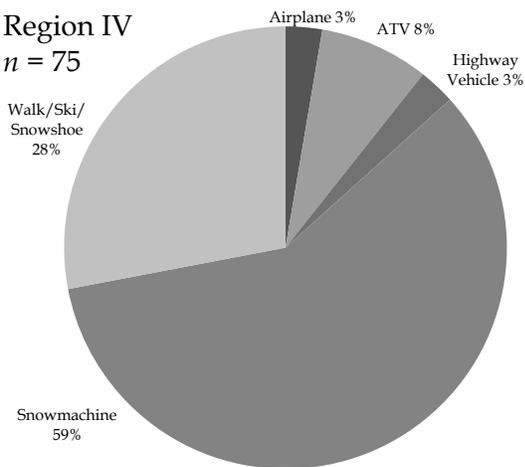
Region II  
n = 45



Region III  
n = 59



Region IV  
n = 75



Region V  
n = 18

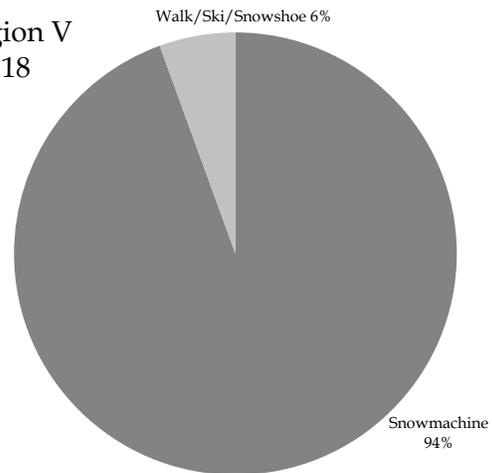


Figure 6. Primary transportation used by Alaska trappers to run their traplines during regulatory year 2020.

## Trapline Composition

Statewide, traplines averaged 18 miles in length with 22 sets (Table 2). Region V trappers had the longest average trapline length at 32 miles, and Region III trappers had the highest average number of sets per trapline, at 31 sets per trapline. Region I trappers reported the shortest average trapline length (7 miles) and Region II reported the lowest average number of sets (13) per trapline.

**Table 2. Average reported trapline length and number of sets per trapline in Alaska for regulatory year 2020.**

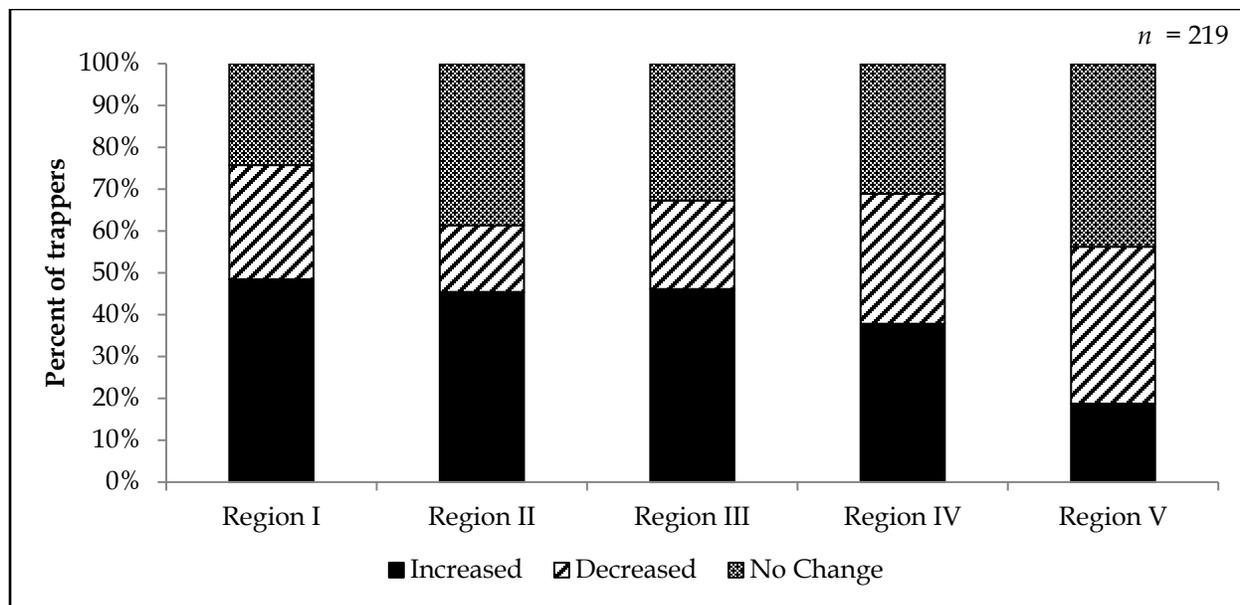
Region	Average trapline length (miles)	Maximum length (miles)	Average number of sets per trapline	Maximum number of sets per trapline
I	7	60	17	100
II	8	70	13	112
III	25	200	31	150
IV	18	160	24	150
V	32	190	19	80
Statewide	18	200	22	150



Photo by Matt Kynoch

## Trapping Efforts

During the RY20 season, 33% ( $n = 72$ ) of Alaska trappers ( $n = 219$ ) did not change their efforts compared to last season (Fig. 7). Of those who did change their efforts ( $n = 147$ ), 62% increased their efforts. Seventy-four percent ( $n = 67$ ) of trappers who increased efforts saw an increase in their overall catch.



**Figure 7. Change in trapping efforts for the regulatory year 2020 season by region, Alaska.**

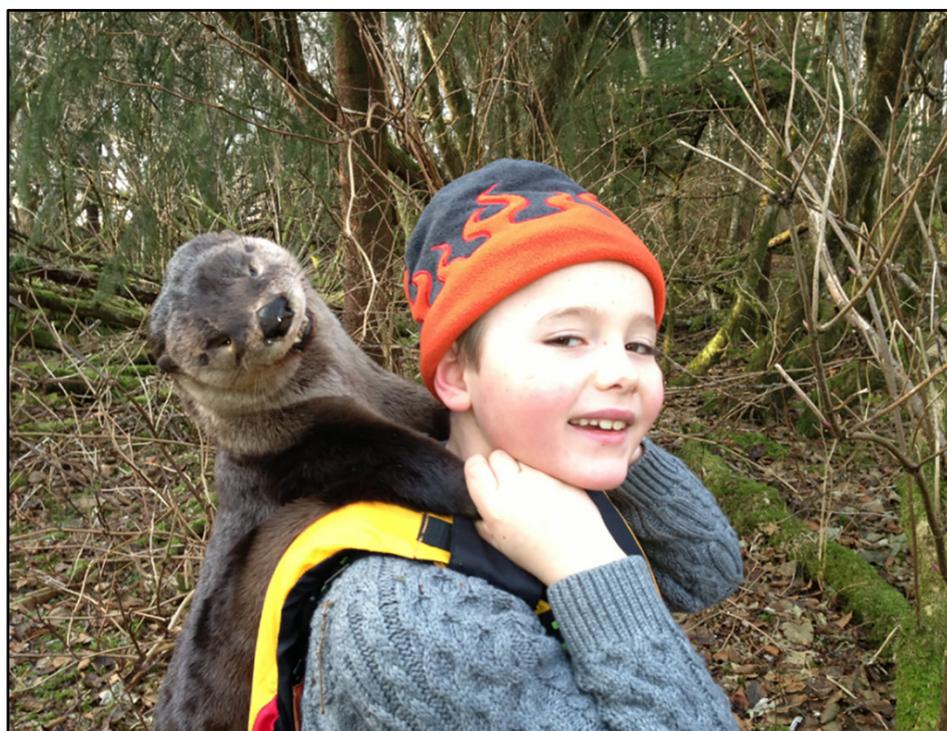
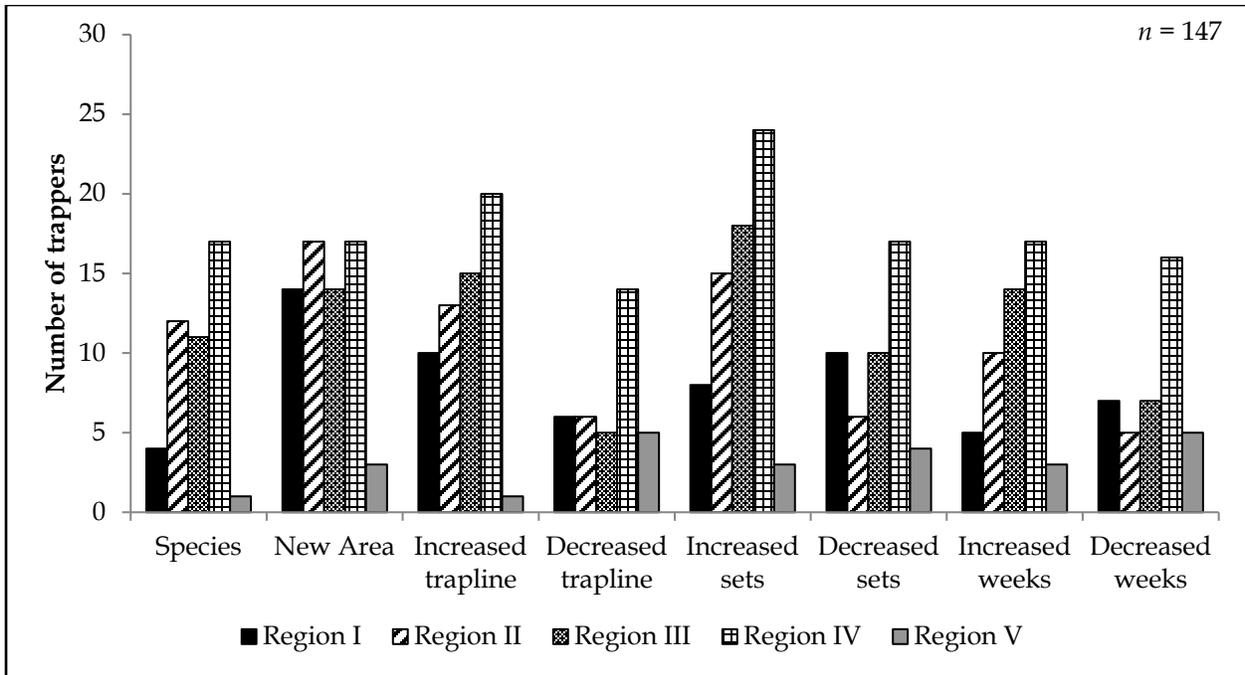


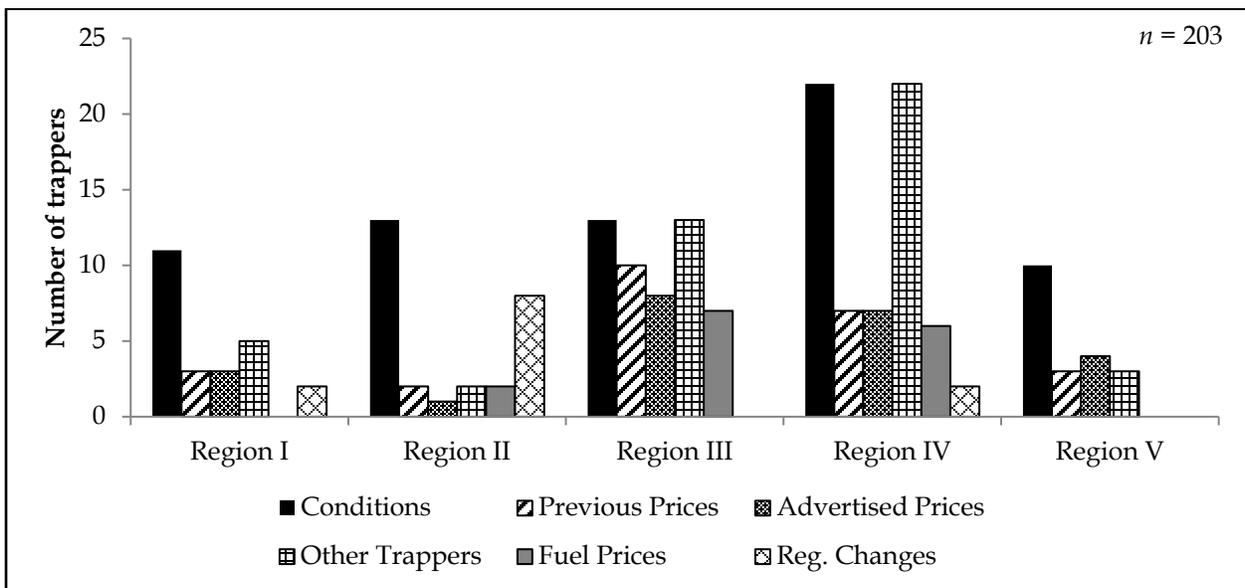
Photo by Kyle Ferguson.

Trappers could choose multiple responses for how their efforts changed in the RY20 season (Fig. 8,  $n = 147$  trappers). The two most common changes in effort across Alaska were increasing the number of sets ( $n = 68$ ) and trapping in a new area ( $n = 65$ ). Trappers in Region IV ( $n = 24$ ) showed the greatest increase in the number of sets, while trappers in Regions II and IV tried trapping in a new area ( $n = 17$ ) more than trappers in any other region.



**Figure 8. Types of change in trapping effort for the regulatory year 2020 season, Alaska.**

Statewide, trappers reporting factors that affected their efforts during the RY20 season ( $n = 203$ , Fig. 9), indicated trapping conditions (weather, snow depth or cover, ice, etc.) was the leading factor influencing both an increase ( $n = 41$ ) and decrease ( $n = 28$ ) in trapping effort. The preseason advertised prices ( $n = 22$ ) and previous season prices ( $n = 24$ ) negatively influenced trapper effort, while other trappers reportedly caused trappers to increase ( $n = 20$ ) and decrease ( $n = 25$ ) effort.



**Figure 9. Factors affecting trapping effort by region during the regulatory year 2020 season, Alaska.**

## TARGET SPECIES AND FUR DISPOSITION

### Target Species

Table 3 below shows how each species ranked in order of importance by region, with 1 being most important and 14 being least important. Rank was calculated by totaling the number of trappers who ranked that species as 1 of the 3 most important species they were trying to catch. Figure 10 shows the number of trappers statewide ranking species as first, second, and third most important.

Lynx was the most important species across Alaska. Lynx ranked as the most important species in Regions II through V, and the seventh most important in Region I. Statewide, marten—ranked as the second most important species, and wolf came in as the third most important species.



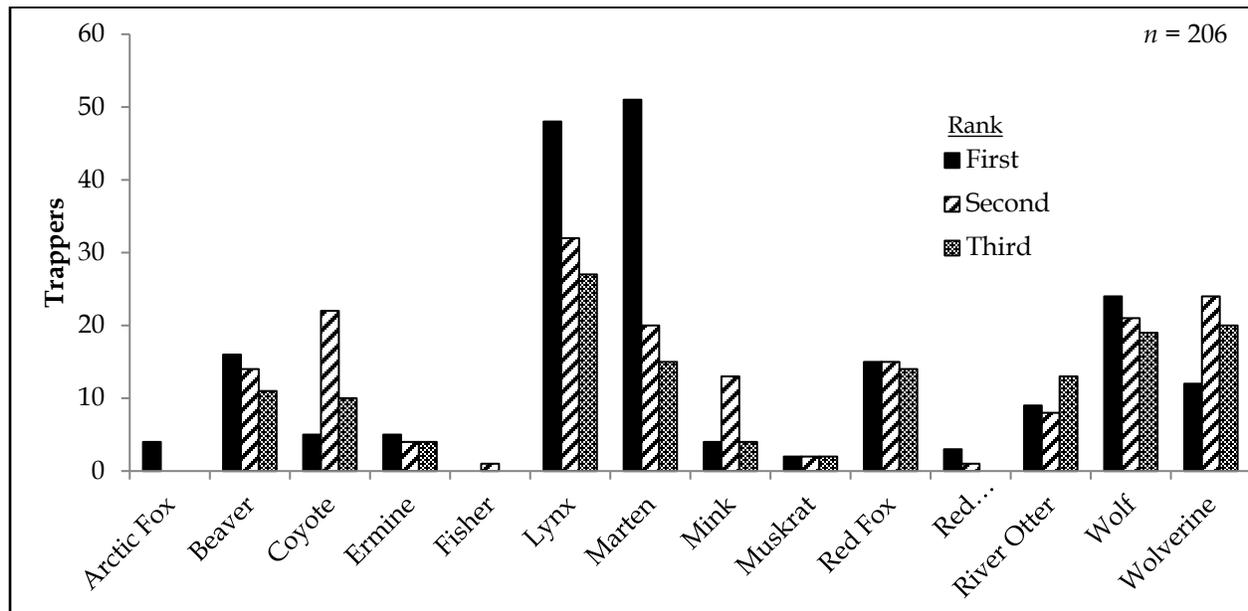
Photo by Brian Powell

**Table 3. Species ranked<sup>a</sup> by importance at both statewide and regional levels, Alaska, regulatory year 2020.**

Species	Statewide	Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Region V
Lynx	1	7	1	1	1	1
Marten	2	1	2	3	2	5
Wolf	3	5	9	2	5	2
Wolverine	4	6	4	4	3	4
Red Fox	5	9	8	5	4	3
Beaver	6	3	6	6	7	5
Coyote	7	7	3	6	6	8
River Otter	8	3	4	9	8	7
Mink	9	2	10	9	11	8
Ermine	10	--	6	9	9	8
Muskrat	11	--	--	9	9	8
Arctic fox	12	--	--	8	--	8
Red Squirrel	12	--	11	--	12	--
Fisher	14	9	--	--	--	--

*Note:* A double-dash (--) indicates no trapper ranked the species as one of the most important.

<sup>a</sup> Rank = 1–14; with 1 being most important and 14 least important. Repeats of rank indicate that one or more species tied for that rank.



**Figure 10. The number of trappers statewide ranking each species as the first, second, or third most important species they targeted during the regulatory year 2020 season in Alaska.**

## Presence of Ectoparasites

Trappers who trapped during the RY20 season indicated that ectoparasites, including fleas, ticks, lice, and other species, were mostly not present or scarce across all furs harvested (Table 4). “Other” ectoparasites noted on furbearers included mites on mink and marten in Region I, mange on a wolf in Region II, common waterbugs on beaver in Region III, as well as mange and possible follicular dysplasia in coyotes in Region IV. Regionwide ectoparasite abundance was determined by reassigning a numerical value to each category (not present = 0; scarce = 1; common = 2; abundant = 3) and averaging the sum of each region. We created an arbitrary range of values to classify the average opinions of trappers regarding ectoparasite abundance in an area: values of 0 indicated ectoparasites were not present, values  $>0$  and  $<1.67$  indicated scarce ectoparasite abundance, values of  $1.67$ – $2.33$  indicated common ectoparasite abundance, and values  $>2.33$  indicated abundant ectoparasite abundance.



Photo from ADF&G files

**Table 4. Presence of ectoparasites found on Alaska furbearers by species and region, regulatory year 2020.**

Region	Ectoparasite <sup>a</sup>	Species													
		Arctic fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine	Fisher	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red Fox	Red squirrel	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine
I <i>n</i> = 16	F	NP	S	S	S		S	S	S		NP	NP	S	S	NP
	L	NP	NP	NP	NP		S	S	NP		NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
	T	NP	NP	NP	NP		NP	NP	NP		NP	S	NP	NP	NP
	O	NP	NP	NP	NP		NP	S	S		NP		NP		
II <i>n</i> = 3	F	NP	NP	S	S		S	S	NP	NP	S	C	NP	NP	NP
	L	NP	NP	NP	NP		NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP
	T	NP	NP	NP	NP		NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
	O	NP	NP	NP	NP		NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP
III <i>n</i> = 26	F	NP	S	S	S		C	S	S	S	S	S	NP	S	S
	L	NP	NP	S	S		S	NP	NP		NP	NP	NP	S	NP
	T	NP	NP	S	NP		S	NP	NP		NP	NP		NP	NP
	O	NP	S	NP	NP		S	NP	NP		NP	NP		S	NP
IV <i>n</i> = 31	F	S	S	S	S		C	S	NP	NP	S	S	NP	S	S
	L	S	S	S	S		S	NP	NP	NP	S	S	NP	NP	S
	T	S	S	S	NP		NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP
	O	NP	S	S	NP		S	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
V <i>n</i> = 6	F	NP	NP	NP	C	NP	S	S	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP	NP
	L	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP
	T	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
	O	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP

Note: Blank fields indicate no responses were received.

<sup>a</sup> Ectoparasites: F = fleas; L = lice; T = ticks; O = other.

<sup>b</sup> S = Scarce

<sup>c</sup> NP = Not present.

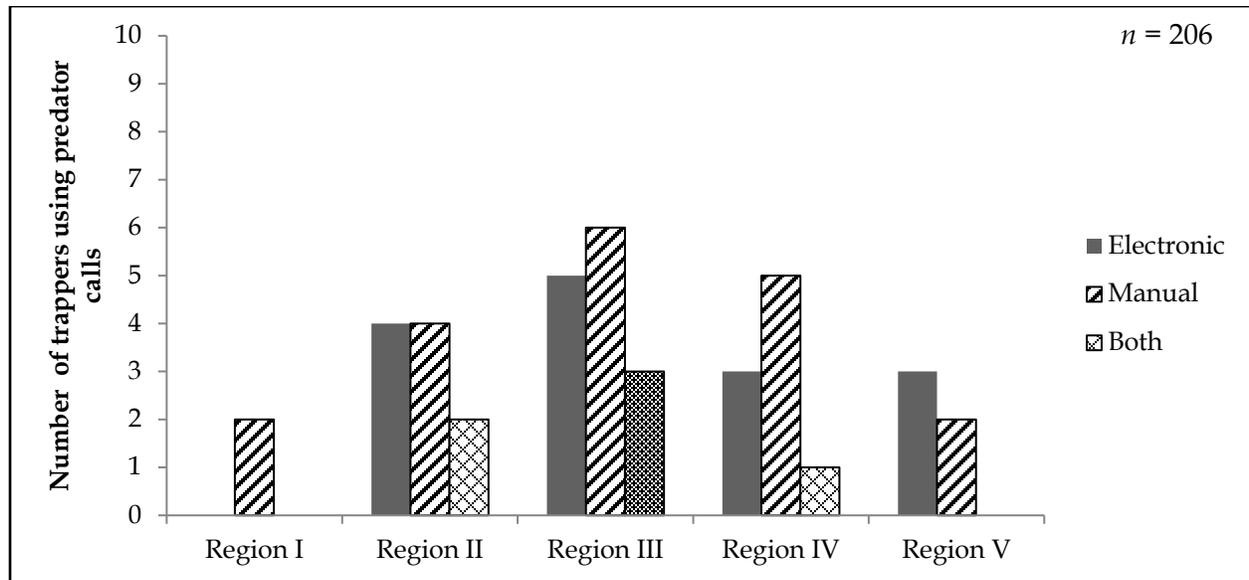
<sup>d</sup> C = Common

<sup>e</sup> A = Abundant

## Harvest Methods

### USE OF PREDATOR CALLS

Statewide, only 34 trappers used any type of predator call; of those trappers, 44% ( $n = 15$ ) used only electronic predator calls, 56% ( $n = 19$ ) used only manual (mouth) predator calls, and 18% ( $n = 6$ ) used both electronic and manual predator calls (Fig. 11).



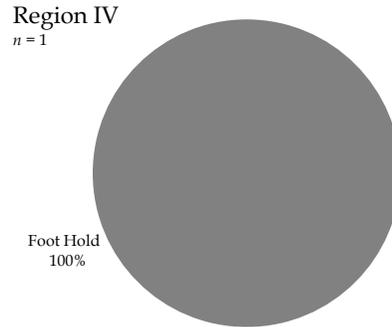
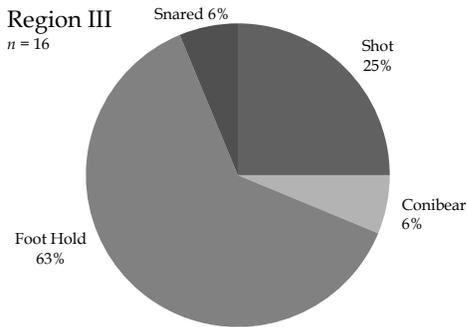
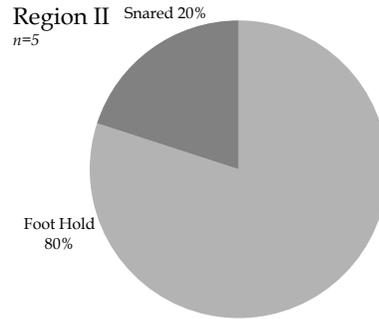
**Figure 11. Use of predator calls by region during regulatory year 2020, Alaska.**

### TRAPPING TECHNIQUES AND SUCCESS

Trappers responding to the 2020 questionnaire were asked to provide the number of pelts they took using each of trapping technique (i.e., shot, snared, foothold, Conibear, or other). Summaries of the number of pelts taken using each technique for each species harvested are provided in Figures 12–24.

# ARCTIC FOX

Region I  
No harvest reported



Region V  
No harvest reported

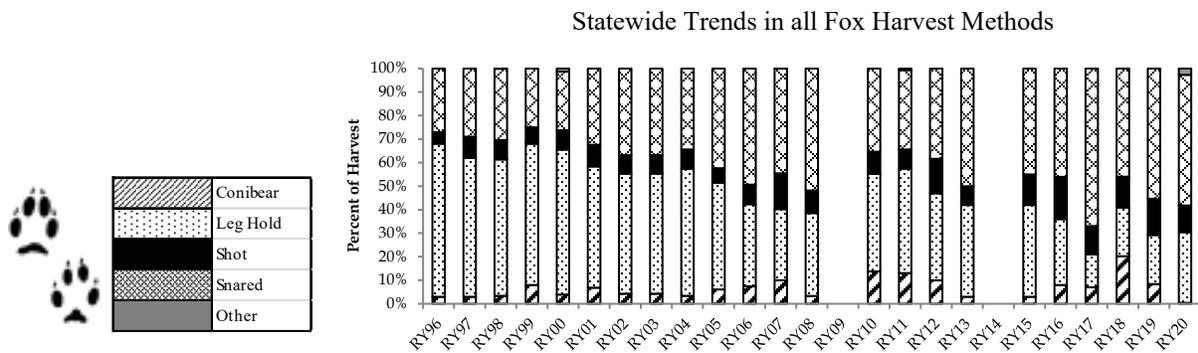
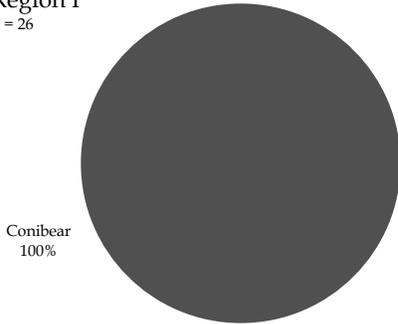


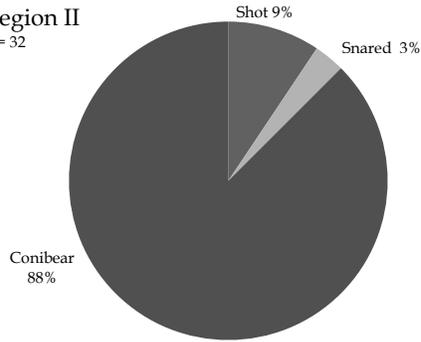
Figure 12. Methods trappers used to harvest Arctic fox in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

# BEAVER

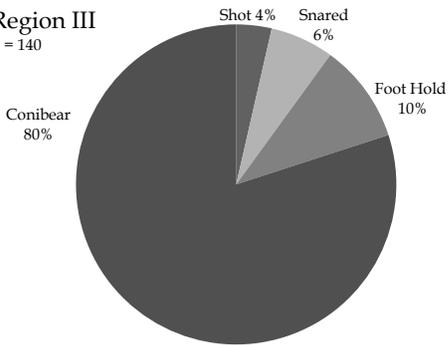
Region I  
n = 26



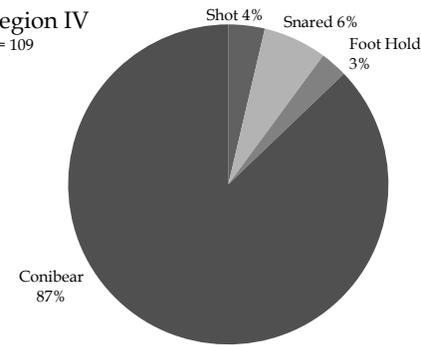
Region II  
n = 32



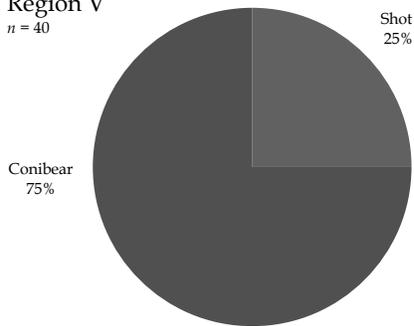
Region III  
n = 140



Region IV  
n = 109



Region V  
n = 40



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

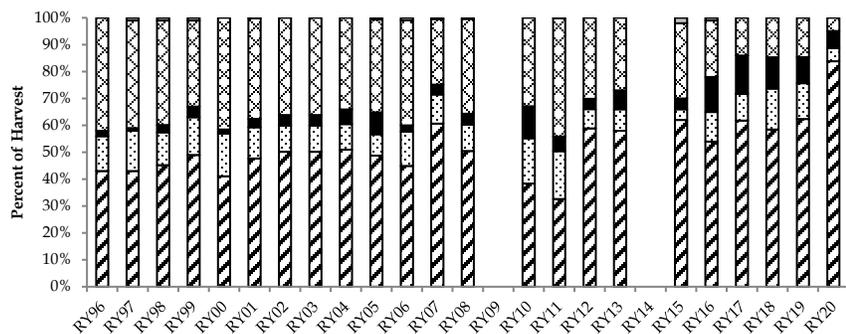
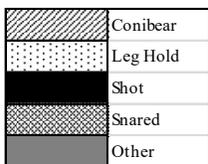
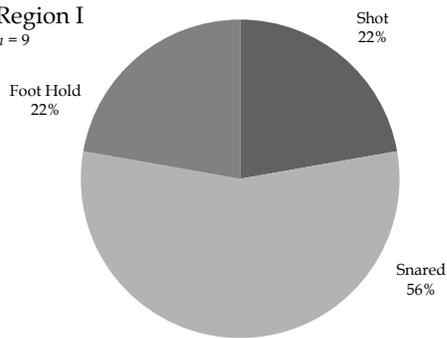


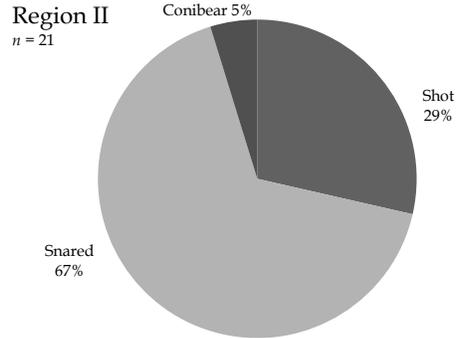
Figure 13. Methods trappers used to harvest beaver in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

# COYOTE

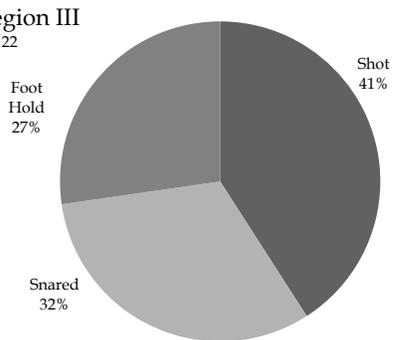
Region I  
n = 9



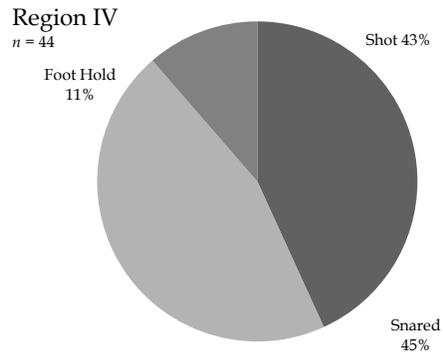
Region II  
n = 21



Region III  
n = 22



Region IV  
n = 44



Region V  
No harvest reported

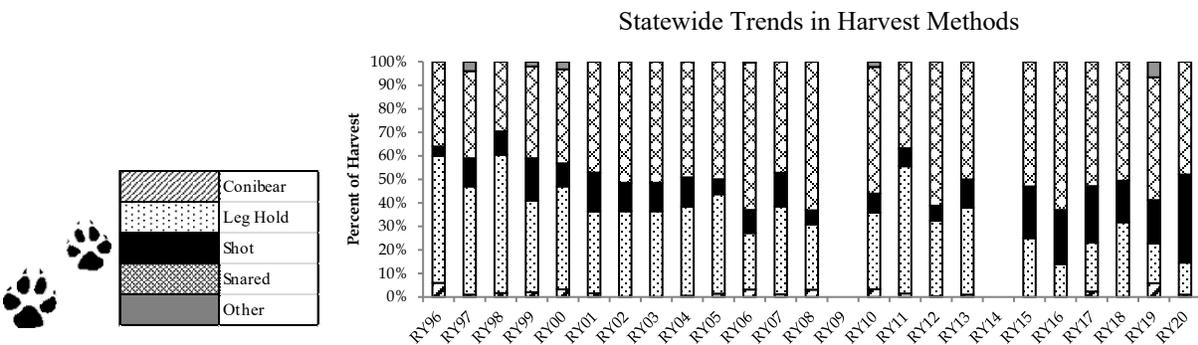
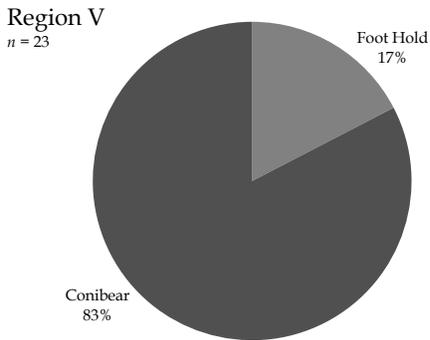
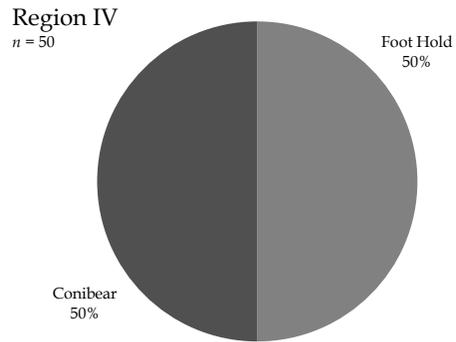
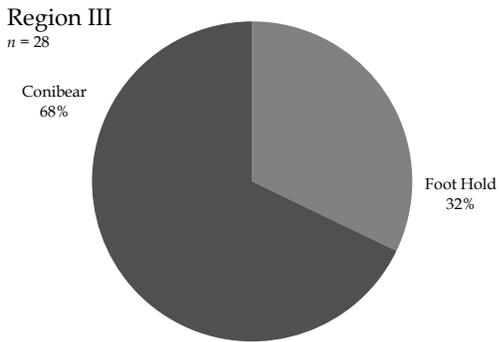
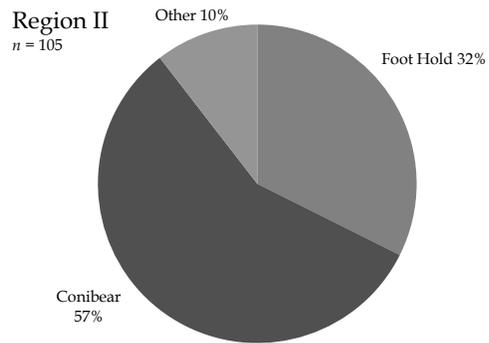
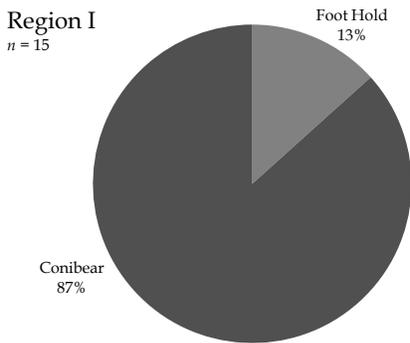


Figure 14. Methods trappers used to harvest coyote in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

# ERMINE



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

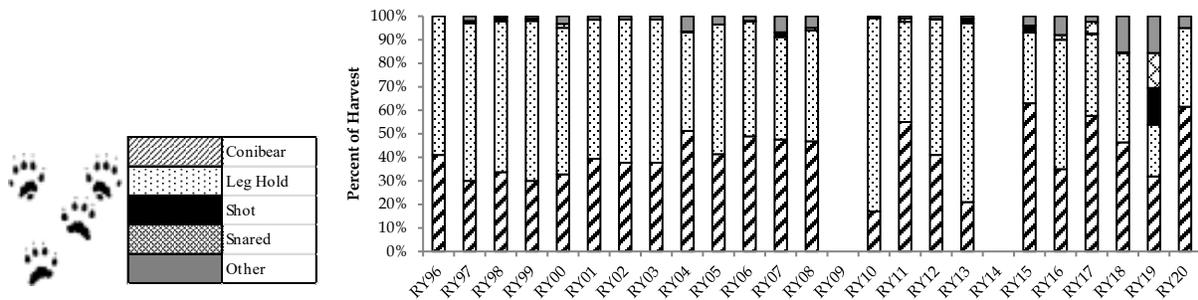


Figure 15. Methods trappers used to harvest ermine in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

# FISHER

Region I  
n = 2

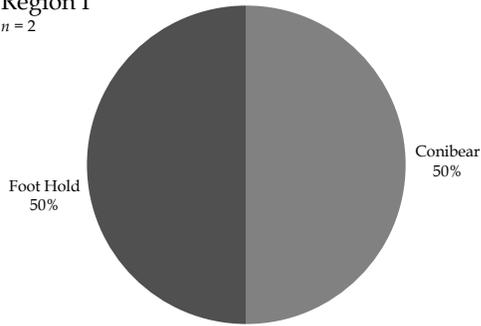


Photo by John Jacobson

## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

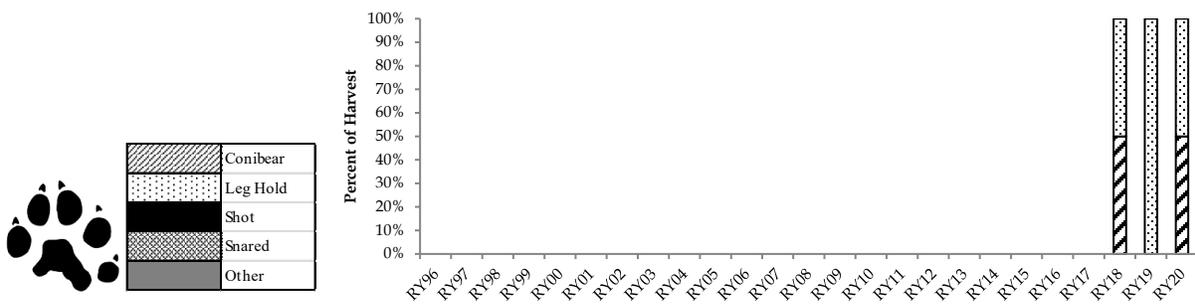
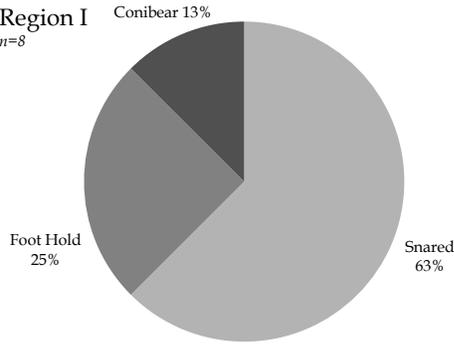


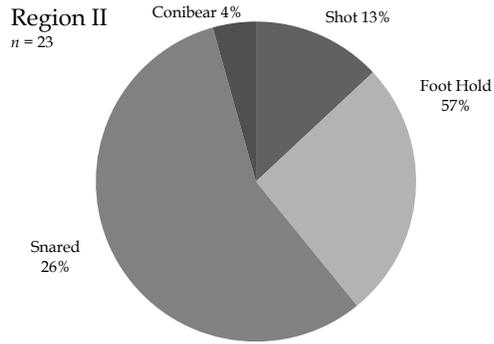
Figure 16. Methods trappers used to harvest fisher in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

# LYNX

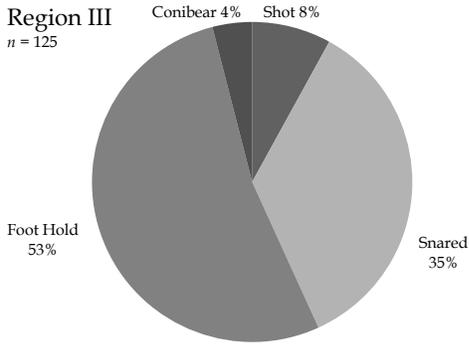
**Region I**  
n = 8



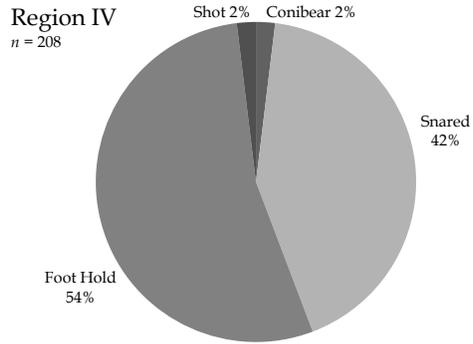
**Region II**  
n = 23



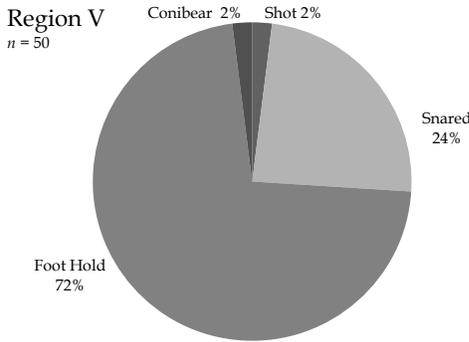
**Region III**  
n = 125



**Region IV**  
n = 208



**Region V**  
n = 50



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

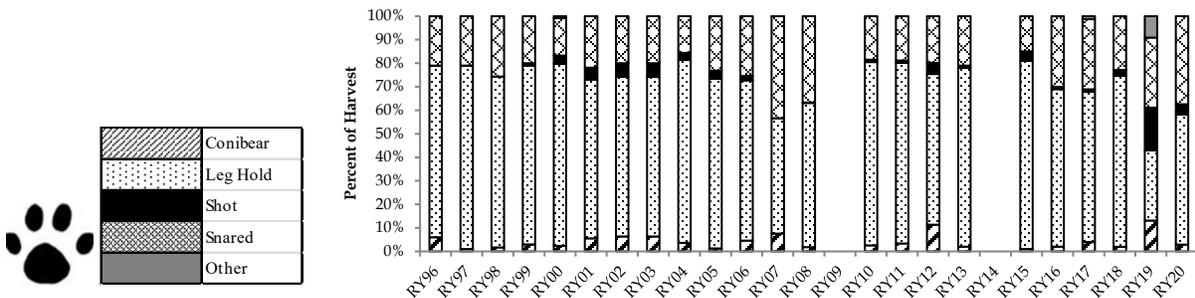
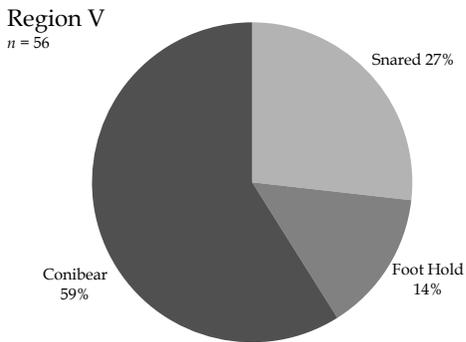
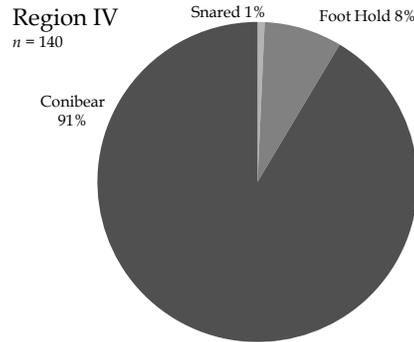
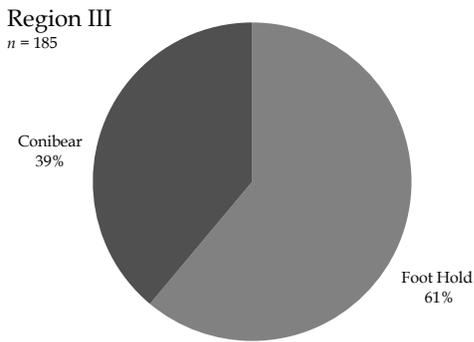
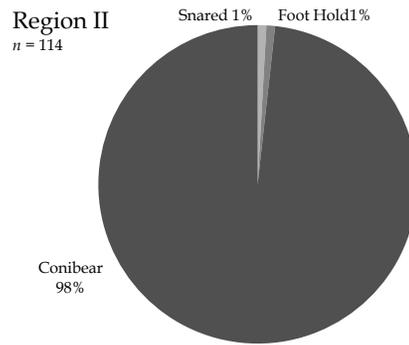
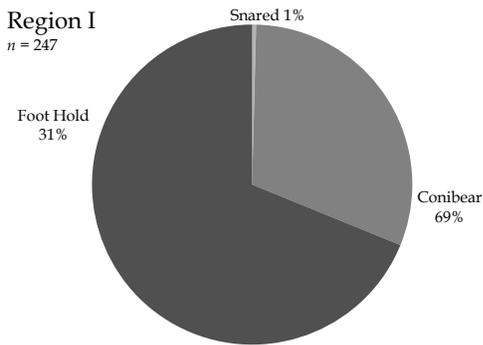
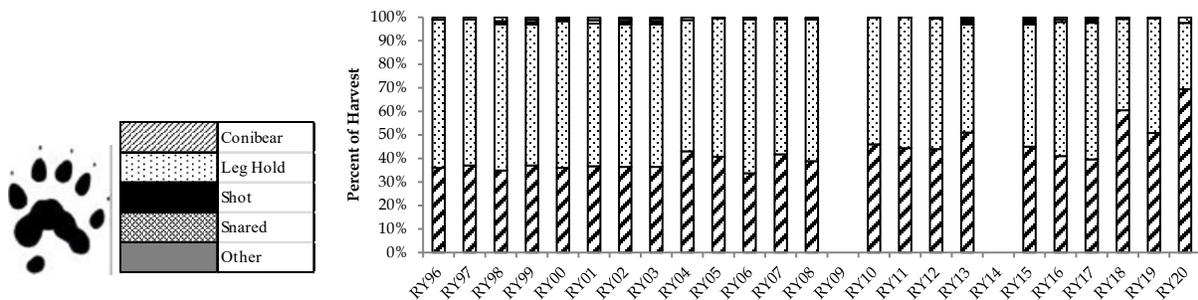


Figure 17. Methods trappers used to harvest lynx in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

# MARTEN



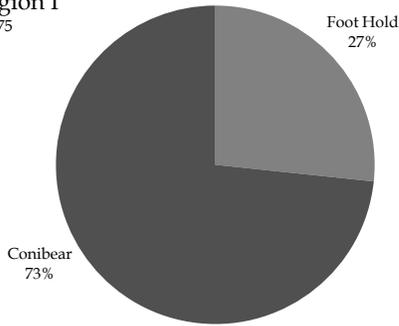
## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



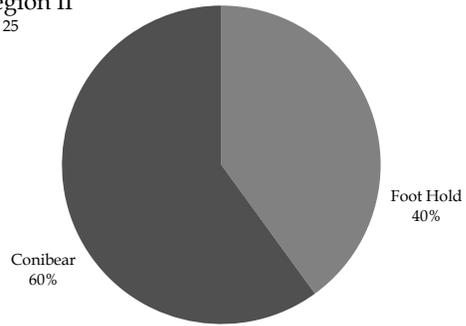
**Figure 18. Methods trappers used to harvest marten in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.**

# MINK

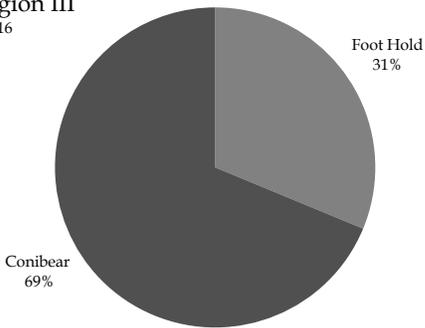
Region I  
n = 75



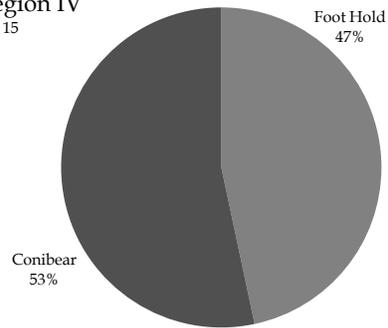
Region II  
n = 25



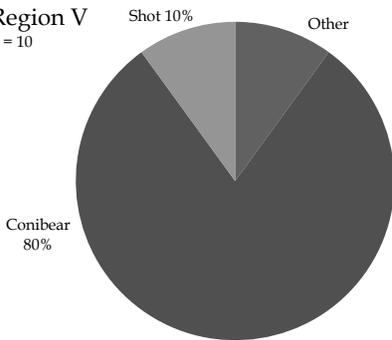
Region III  
n = 16



Region IV  
n = 15



Region V  
n = 10



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

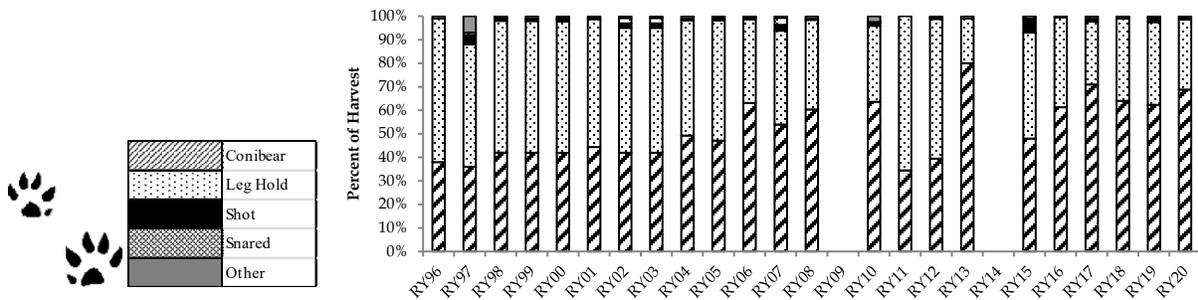
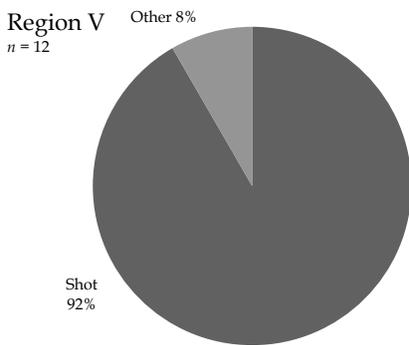
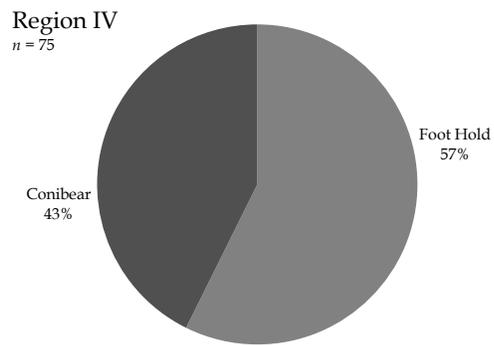
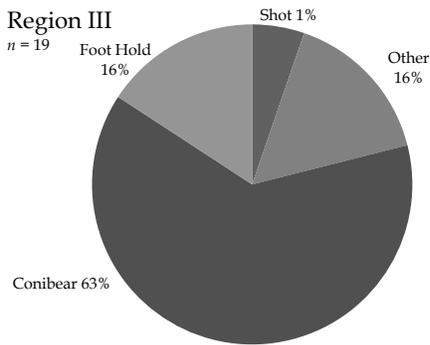
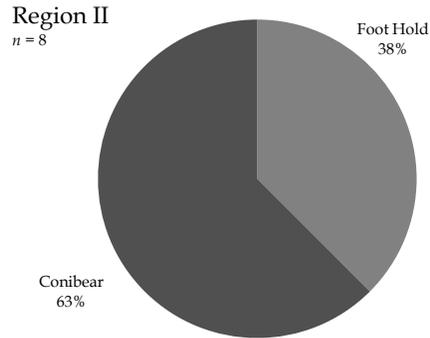


Figure 19. Methods trappers used to harvest mink in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

# MUSKRAT

Region I  
No harvest reported.



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

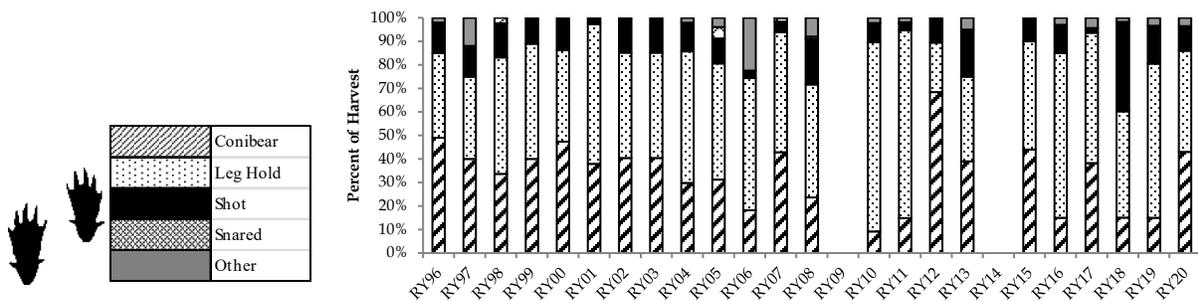
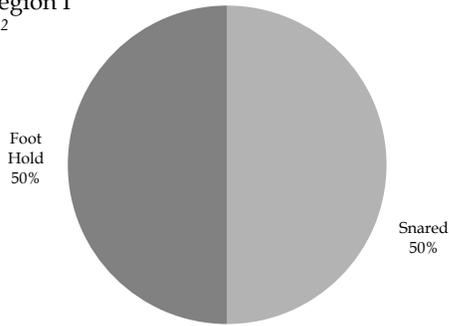


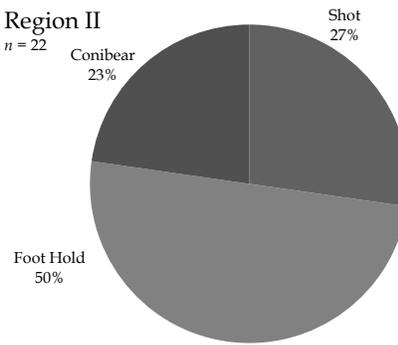
Figure 20. Methods trappers used to harvest muskrat in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

# RED FOX

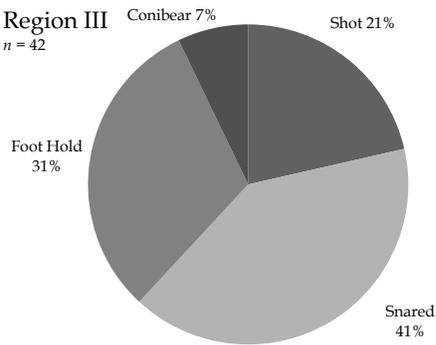
Region I  
n=2



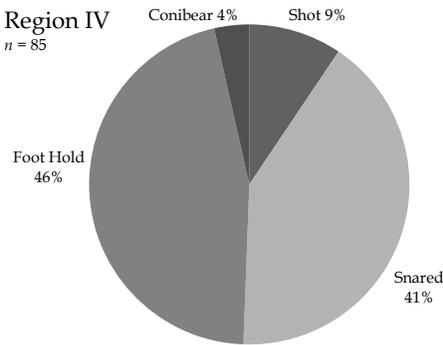
Region II  
n = 22



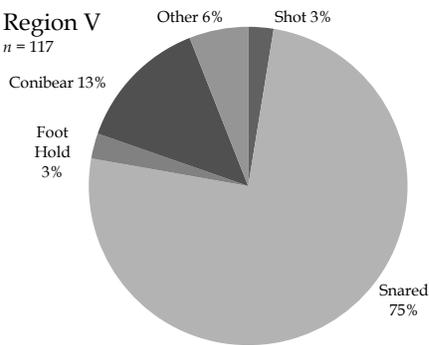
Region III  
n = 42



Region IV  
n = 85



Region V  
n = 117



Statewide Trends in All Fox Harvest Methods

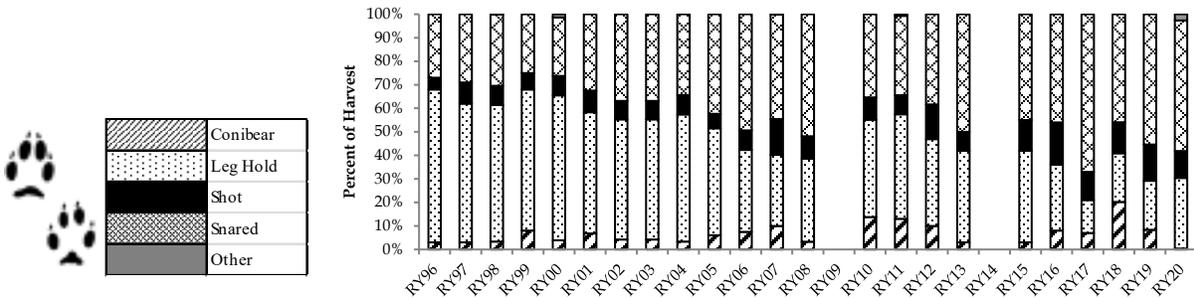
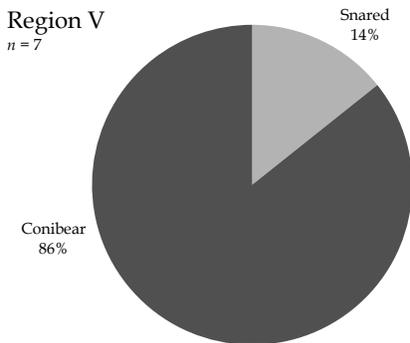
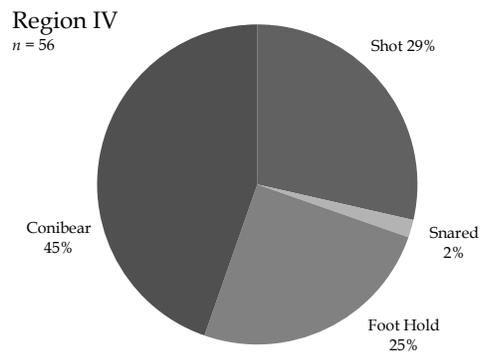
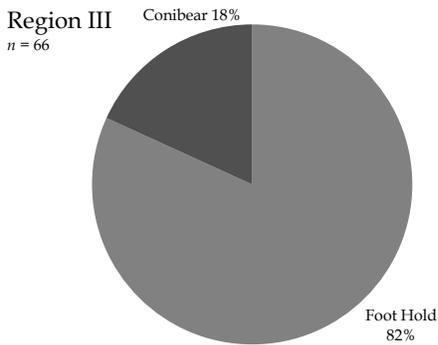
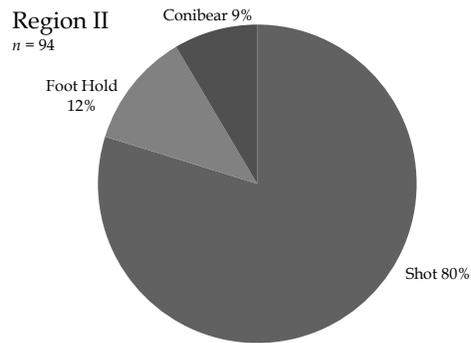
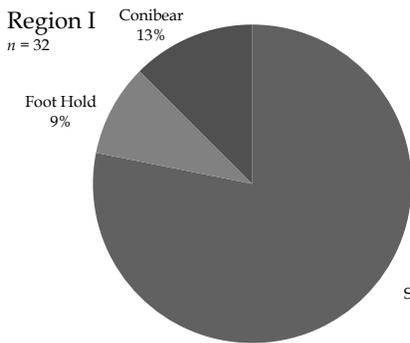


Figure 21. Methods trappers used to harvest red fox in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

# RED SQUIRREL



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

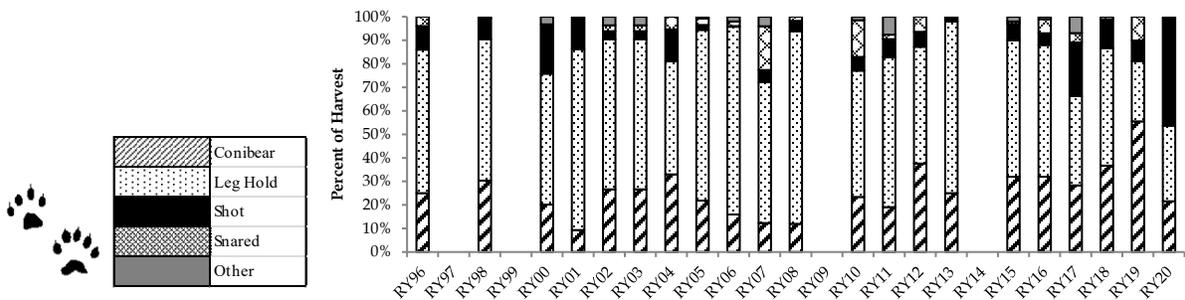


Figure 22. Methods trappers used to harvest red squirrel in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

# RIVER OTTER

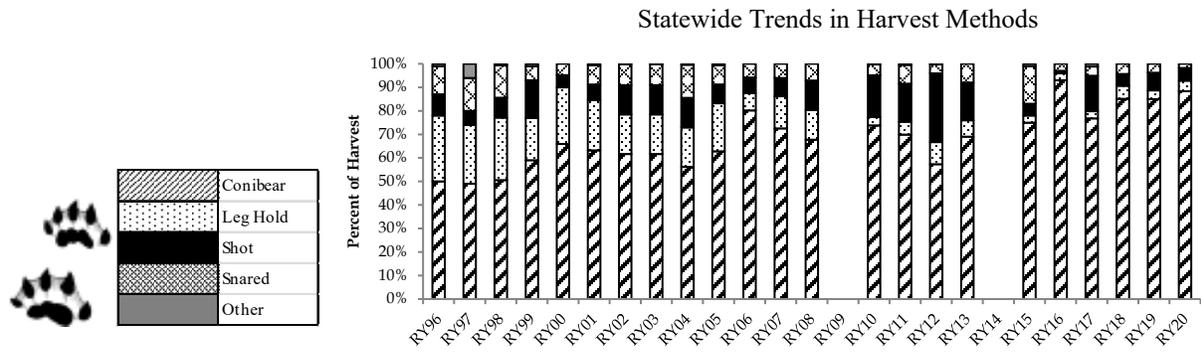
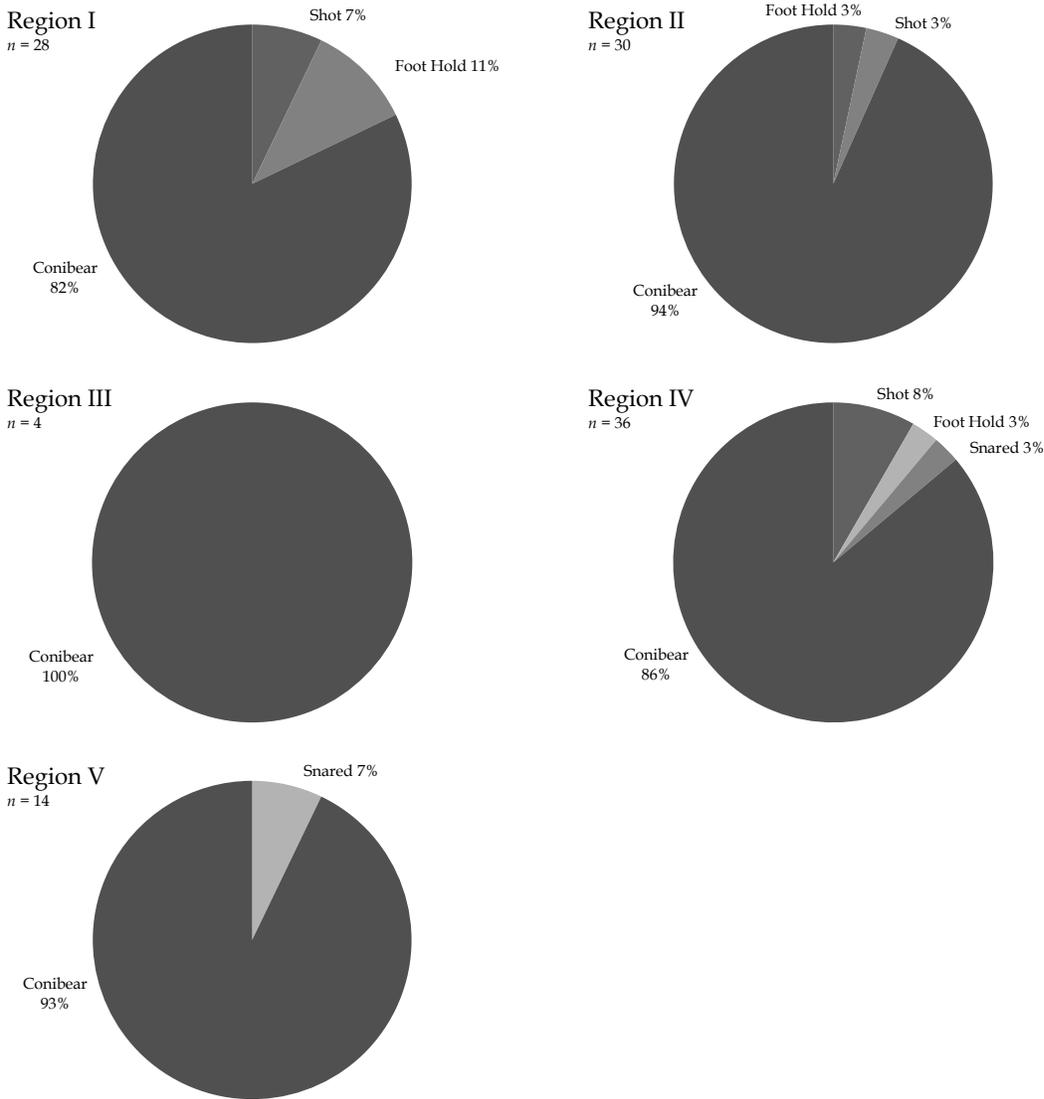
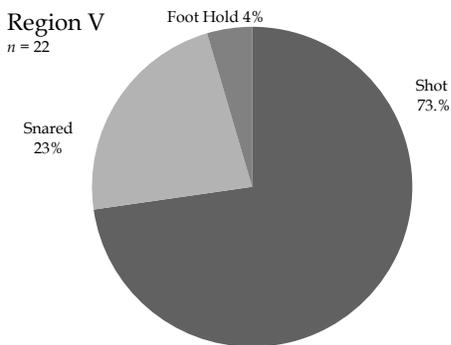
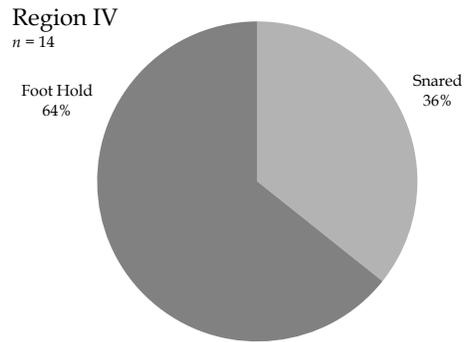
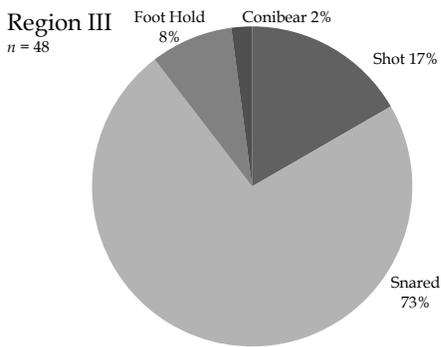
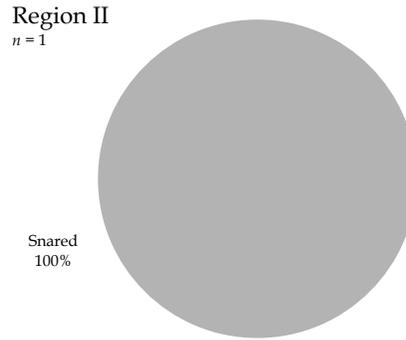
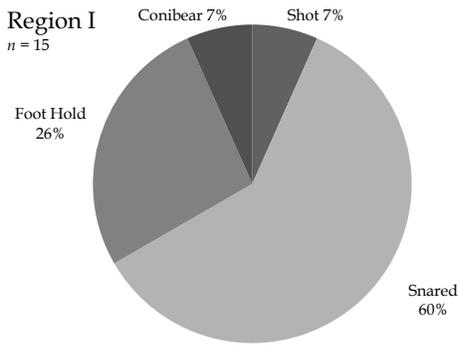
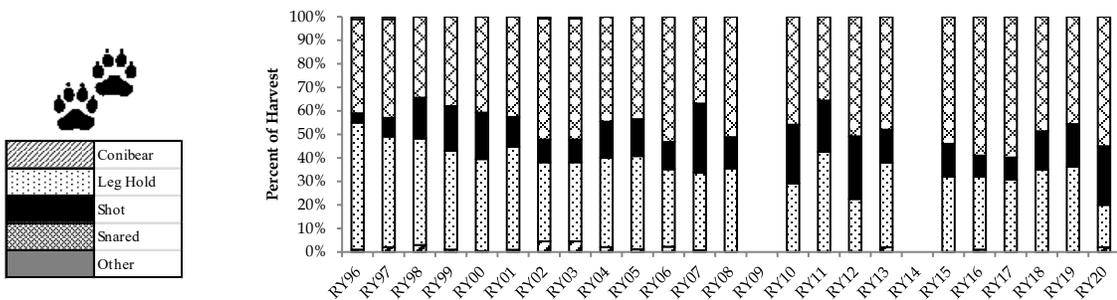


Figure 23. Methods trappers used to harvest river otter in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

# WOLF



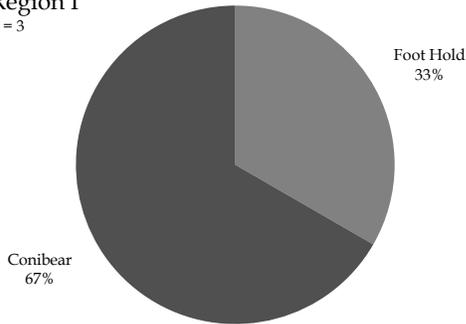
## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



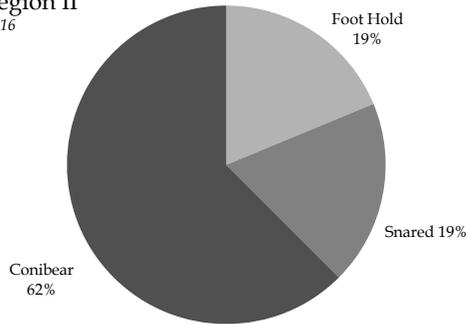
**Figure 24. Methods trappers used to harvest wolf in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.**

# WOLVERINE

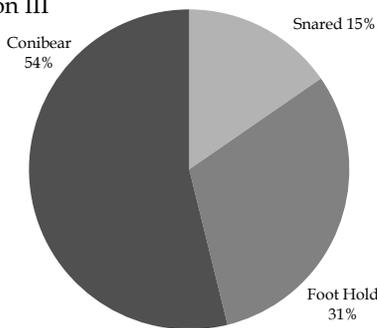
Region I  
n = 3



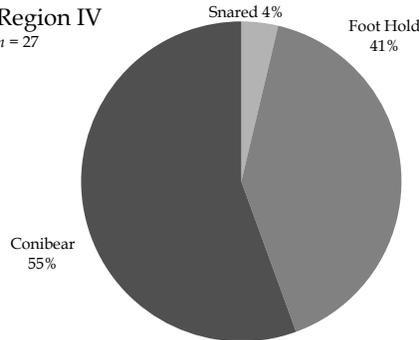
Region II  
n=16



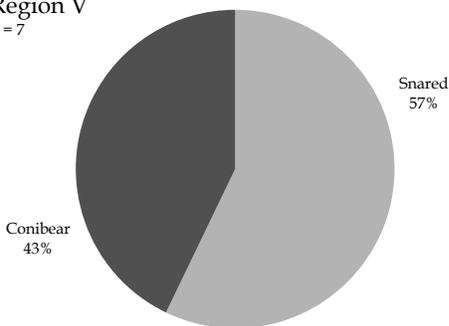
Region III  
n = 13



Region IV  
n = 27



Region V  
n = 7



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

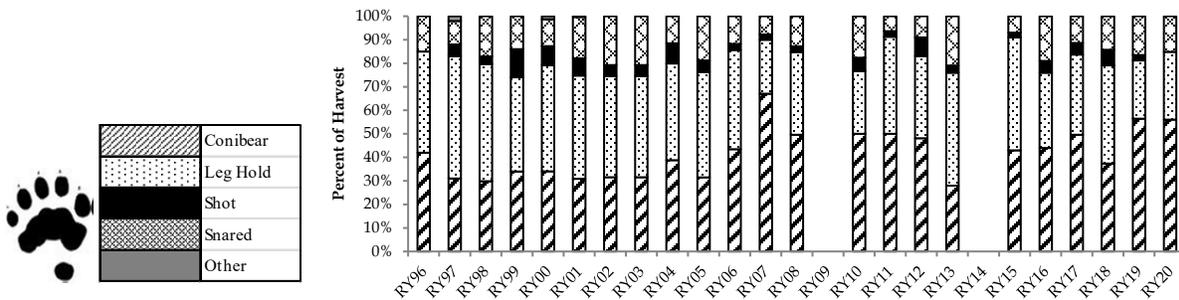


Figure 25. Methods trappers used to harvest wolverine in Alaska during regulatory year 2020.

## Species Relative Abundance and Population Trends

The species relative abundance index is based on work done with snowshoe hares in Alberta, Canada by Christopher Brand and Lloyd Keith (1979).<sup>1</sup> They compared the responses to a trapper questionnaire with their estimates of hare densities based on their own fieldwork and found there was a good relationship between these 2 measures. They developed an index for the responses received from trappers on the questionnaire. A numerical value was assigned to each of 3 responses: 1 = scarce; 2 = common; and 3 = abundant. The value of the abundance index was derived from a mathematical equation that expressed the cumulative response value of trappers in a given region as a percentage of the range of possible values:

$$I = \left[ \left( \sum_{i=1}^n (R_i) - n \right) / 2n \right] \times 100$$

Where I = abundance index

R = numerical value (1 = scarce, 2 = common, 3 = abundant)

n = number of trappers reporting

The abundance index (I) ranged from 0% to 100%. Index values of 0–19% indicated animals were scarce, 20–50% indicated animals were common, and values greater than 50% indicated animals were abundant. In the following tables, we converted the index values to the appropriate category: scarce, common, or abundant.

We do not know if the same ranges of percentages are appropriate for animals in Alaska, as they were established for snowshoe hares in Alberta. However, this index does provide a way to generally compare trappers' interpretations of species abundance in a given area over time and can be very helpful when used in conjunction with other abundance indicators and sources of information.

The numerical trend index indicates if trappers felt animals were fewer, the same, or more numerous than they were the previous year. This index is slightly different than the relative abundance index. The trend index was calculated by assigning a 1 if the 'fewer' box was checked, 2 for the 'same,' and 3 for 'more' animals. The average was then calculated for all trappers in an area. Since we don't have an independent measure of trend to compare the index values to as we did for relative abundance, it is necessary to select arbitrary ranges of values to classify the average opinion of trappers in an area. For purposes of this report, an average trend value of <1.67 represents fewer (-), a value >2.33 represents more (+), and intermediate values represent no change (n/c) in trend.

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<sup>1</sup> C. J. Brand and L. B. Keith. 1979. Lynx demography during a snowshoe hare decline in Alberta. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 43(4):827–849.

Relative abundance and numerical trend results for RY20 are presented in Table 5. Due to the relatively small sample size in RY20, we presented species relative abundance and trend at a regionwide level as opposed to the game management unit (GMU) level. Sample sizes were too small to provide useful data at a smaller geographic scale.



Photo by Andrew Dougherty

**Table 5. Regionwide relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, regulatory year 2020.**

Species	Region I		Region II		Region III		Region IV		Region V	
	Relative abundance <i>n</i> <sup>a</sup> = 27	Trend <i>n</i> = 27	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 30	Trend <i>n</i> = 27	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 46	Trend <i>n</i> = 44	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 58	Trend <i>n</i> = 57	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 15	Trend <i>n</i> = 15
<i>Furbearers:</i>										
Arctic fox	not present	n/c <sup>b</sup>	not present	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	+ <sup>c</sup>	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Fisher	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Lynx	scarce	n/c	scarce	+	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Marten	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Mink	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Red fox	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	-
Red squirrel	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
River otter	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
<i>Prey:</i>										
Grouse	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c
Hare	scarce	- <sup>d</sup>	common	+	scarce	-	common	n/c	common	-
Mice/rodents	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	+

<sup>a</sup> *n* is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species.

<sup>b</sup> n/c = no change in trend.

<sup>c</sup> + = increase in trend.

<sup>d</sup> - = decrease in trend.

## Furbearer Harvest Report

Only 4 of the 14 species defined as furbearers are required to be sealed throughout Alaska: lynx, river otter, wolf, and wolverine. Marten, beaver, and fisher are required to be sealed in some units but not statewide. Table 6 shows the number of each species trappers reported harvesting in each subunit during the RY20 season. The letter Z means no subunit or none was specified.

It would be helpful to know what proportion of the total harvest the questionnaire response numbers represent. For species that require sealing, the number sealed represents our best information about the statewide harvest. Table 7 shows the total number of furbearers sealed. Table 8 gives the harvest totals reported on the questionnaire as a percentage of the total number sealed.



Photo by Brian Powell

**Table 6. Furbearer harvest as reported on the 2020 trapper questionnaire, Alaska.**

Region	Subunit <sup>a</sup>	N	Arctic fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine	Fisher	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red fox	Red squirrel	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine
I	1A	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	19	0	0	1	8	0	0
	1B	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	3	0	0	2	0	6	2
	1C	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	21	7	0	0	0	7	3	0
	1D	5	0	0	9	2	0	7	17	0	0	2	4	2	1	0
	1Z	7	0	9	0	6	2	0	28	24	0	0	0	6	4	0
	2Z	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	18	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3Z	1	0	5	0	3	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4Z	9	0	3	0	0	0	0	385	39	0	0	0	25	0	0
	5A	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	51	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
I Totals		34	0	29	9	15	2	8	586	100	0	2	7	48	15	3
II	6B	1	0	0	0	6	0	1	35	6	0	0	0	1	0	6
	6C	2	0	9	0	2	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
	6D	2	0	1	8	5	0	0	6	9	2	0	0	7	0	3
	7Z	7	2	0	2	26	0	0	29	2	0	0	8	0	0	3
	8Z	10	0	13	0	11	0	0	0	2	0	27	75	20	0	0
	14C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15A	6	3	1	7	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	15B	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15C	0	0	0	0	55	0	8	0	6	4	0	15	2	1	3
15Z	1	0	6	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
II Totals		32	5	30	18	106	0	15	80	27	8	27	98	31	1	16
III	12Z	7	2	6	3	1	0	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	15	4
	19A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	19B	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	19D	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	19Z	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
	20A	6	0	3	11	2	0	27	9	0	0	3	19	0	12	3
	20B	22	9	119	1	20	0	57	201	10	1	5	47	0	10	3
	20C	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	12	0	0	0	10	0	0	2
	20D	8	0	0	3	3	0	28	5	0	0	6	10	0	1	2
	20E	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
	20F	5	0	5	0	2	0	13	89	0	0	2	0	0	1	2
	20Z	3	0	6	8	2	0	33	0	1	0	4	0	2	6	0
	21B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	21D	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	21Z	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	24A	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	24B	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	20	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
24D	1	0	4	0	0	0	7	2	5	2	5	5	1	2	0	
24Z	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	8	0	0	4	0	

Region	Subunit <sup>a</sup>	N	Arctic fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine	Fisher	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red fox	Red squirrel	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine
	25A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	25B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	1	30	0	0	0
	25C	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	25D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	26A	1	3	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	26B	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1
	26Z	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
III Totals		69	5	146	26	46	0	191	364	16	3	45	121	3	56	20
IV	9B	2	0	0	1	8	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	2
	9C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	9Z	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	11Z	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	13A	10	0	0	3	16	0	72	19	4	2	15	11	3	9	4
	13B	6	1	13	0	2	0	19	18	0	0	10	0	1	0	1
	13C	3	0	4	10	13	0	28	73	2	0	3	0	0	4	2
	13D	7	0	0	3	0	0	53	9	2	1	1	1	3	3	0
	13E	6	0	11	1	5	0	3	10	3	22	0	1	5	0	8
	13Z	9	0	18	10	21	0	38	15	1	30	10	25	0	2	4
	14A	12	0	4	3	6	0	5	1	4	38	3	14	3	0	0
	14B	6	0	11	1	5	0	4	37	1	0	3	0	2	0	1
	14E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	14Z	1	0	0	7	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
	16A	5	0	23	17	0	0	7	26	0	0	0	0	6	0	1
	16B	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	16Z	2	0	4	0	2	0	3	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
17A	3	0	0	2	1	0	3	2	1	0	10	3	2	0	0	
17C	5	0	21	1	1	0	4	3	4	0	28	0	11	0	1	
17Z	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
IV Totals		80	1	109	59	80	0	247	279	22	93	92	55	37	18	30
V	18Z	14	0	30	0	0	0	19	0	9	2	101	0	9	14	4
	22A	3	0	1	2	10	0	8	3	1	27	17	12	0	1	1
	22B	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	22C	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	22D	1	0	5	0	8	0	1	0	1	1	6	0	0	0	0
	22Z	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23Z	3	0	9	0	16	0	35	51	0	0	18	7	3	5	3	
V Totals		26	0	46	2	34	0	64	57	11	30	142	19	14	20	8
Unknown		3	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide		244	5	360	116	282	2	527	1,366	176	134	308	300	133	110	77

## Furbearer Sealing Records Summary

Sealing refers to the placement of an official marker or locking tag (seal) by an authorized department representative on an animal hide and/or skull. The sealing process may also involve recording biological information about the animal and the conditions under which it was taken, taking measurements, and collecting biological samples. Lynx, river otter, wolf, and wolverine are required to be sealed statewide. Marten, beaver, and fisher are required to be sealed only in certain units. The harvest totals reported below are based on fur sealing records. Numbers reported here on Table 7 may differ from those in previous reports because additional sealing forms have been turned in.



Photo by Clay Roberts

**Table 7. Reported harvest from regulatory year sealing records, Alaska, regulatory years 2015–2020.**

Species	Region	RY15	RY16	RY17	RY18	RY19	RY20
Beaver <sup>a</sup>	I	322	223	219	277	226	110
	II	279	149	132	195	157	115
	III	22	3	9	4	8	6
	IV	446	464	376	360	391	341
	V	4	2	0	0	0	3
	Total:	1,073	841	736	836	782	575
Fisher <sup>b</sup>	I	2	0	5	5	1	3
	II	0	0	0	0	0	0
	III	0	0	0	0	0	0
	IV	0	0	0	0	0	0
	V	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total:	2	0	5	5	1	3
Lynx	I	0	3	1	16	25	30
	II	10	9	11	15	15	49
	III	1,045	1,382	2,384	2,608	1,783	1,496
	IV	116	188	367	647	993	966
	V	326	116	368	84	179	215
	Total:	1,497	1,698	3,131	3,370	2,995	2,756
Marten <sup>c</sup>	I	2,272	2,266	2,914	2,858	1,381	1,761
	II	195	153	123	58	84	215
	III	57	38	0	0	0	0
	IV	671	195	470	209	275	555
	V	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Total:	3,197	2,652	3,507	3,125	1,740	2,531
River otter	I	447	294	292	288	237	202
	II	324	222	158	142	146	102
	III	123	61	53	66	64	27
	IV	204	164	183	149	104	171
	V	397	141	271	61	78	68
	Total:	1,495	882	957	706	629	570
Wolf	I	148	167	192	146	311	175
	II	46	46	40	24	34	17
	III	494	538	586	463	507	544
	IV	159	231	255	336	232	254
	V	198	163	137	53	84	93
	Total:	1,045	1,145	1,210	1,022	1,168	1,083
Wolverine	I	17	17	29	27	12	26
	II	41	36	27	31	28	26
	III	256	175	226	247	219	264
	IV	159	148	144	128	99	173
	V	136	129	65	62	106	65
	Total:	609	505	491	495	464	554

<sup>a</sup> Beavers are required to be sealed in game management units (GMU) 1–11, 13–15, and 17.

<sup>b</sup> Fishers are required to be sealed in GMUs 1–5.

<sup>c</sup> Martens are required to be sealed in GMUs 1–7 and 14–16.

**Table 8. Trapper questionnaire reported harvest as a percent of total number sealed, by species and region where sealing was required, regulatory year 2020, Alaska.**

Region	Percent (%) of RY20 species harvest reported in questionnaire						
	Beaver	Fisher	Lynx	Marten	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine
I	26	67	27	33	24	9	12
II	26	-	31	37	30	6	62
III	100	-	13	-	11	10	8
IV	32	-	26	50	22	7	17
V	100	-	30	-	21	22	12
Statewide	63	-	19	-	23	10	14

Note: A dash indicates there was no sealed harvest.



Photo by Travis Smith

## Commercial Transactions Involving Furs

### AVERAGE PRICES PAID FOR RAW FURS

Prices published by the major fur auction houses (North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc.) during January–July were averaged for each of the 5 years RY16–RY20 to produce the prices in Table 9. Top prices were also from fur auctions. Unfortunately, 2020 data from the North American Fur Auction is no longer available and could therefore not be used in the data shown for 2020. “NA” is used when data was not available from either source. Prices for RY20 in Alaska were obtained from the 2020 August auction house prices. Because the prices were in Canadian currency, the totals were converted to U.S. dollars.

**Table 9. Average fur prices published by the North American Fur Auction (2016–2018) and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc., for the last 5 regulatory years, 2016–2020.**

Species	Average price (U.S. dollars)					Top Price
	RY16	RY17	RY18	RY19	RY20	RY20 (U.S.\$)
Arctic fox	36.39	33.11	34.10	NA	NA	NA
Beaver	10.71	10.83	12.91	13.52	13.21	65.24
Coyote	47.67	57.12	77.18	75.52	50.40	120.98
Ermine	2.72	3.27	2.61	1.30	1.70	10.19
Fisher	49.61	43.84	32.16	NA	NA	35.68
Lynx	69.46	75.87	79.59	NA	43.21	178.40
Marten	83.32	69.47	44.09	NA	20.69	50.97
Mink (wild)	10.44	10.76	9.07	NA	NA	NA
Muskrat	3.89	3.17	3.73	2.90	2.54	6.12
Red fox	17.85	18.81	14.50	19.90	NA	30.58
Squirrel	0.70	0.81	0.53	0.80	0.32	1.53
River otter	28.79	28.68	22.15	NA	15.85	42.82
Wolf	176.36	144.51	168.54	120.47	111.73	739.10
Wolverine	242.19	255.75	291.95	195.66	239.05	479.14

Note: NA = not available.

### MINIMUM ESTIMATED FUR VALUE

Table 10 below summarizes the minimum total estimated value of furs trapped during the RY20 season. Again, due to the lack of data availability from the North American Fur Auction, the data presented below does not accurately portray the total values. The minimum total value was \$448,277.32, with wolf and wolverine accounting for more than half of that total. This table is intended to provide an estimate of fur values in Alaska and does not represent fur revenue. Average fur auction prices were used to calculate fur value. For beaver, fisher, lynx, marten, river otter, wolf, and wolverine, we used number of furs sealed. That means beaver, fisher, and marten values are certainly underestimated because the table includes only animals harvested from the areas in the state where sealing is required. For species that were not sealed, the number of furs is the harvest reported by trappers on the questionnaire.

**Table 10. Minimum value of furs harvested in Alaska, regulatory year 2020, by species.**

Species	Total number sealed or reported	Average price (U.S.\$)	Minimum value (U.S.\$)
Arctic fox	5	NA	NA
Beaver	575	13.21	7,592.93
Coyote	116	50.40	5,846.30
Ermine	280	1.70	475.00
Fisher	3	NA	NA
Lynx	2,756	43.21	119,079.20
Marten	2,531	20.69	52,370.68
Mink	176	NA	NA
Muskrat	134	2.54	340.45
Red fox	308	NA	NA
Red squirrel	300	0.32	95.57
River otter	570	15.85	9,034.10
Wolf	1,083	111.73	121,007.40
Wolverine	554	239.05	132,435.70
<b>Total minimum value</b>			<b>448,277.32</b>

Note: NA = not available.

## Fur Sealing Requirements

Lynx, river otter, wolf, or wolverine taken anywhere in the state, marten in GMUs 1–7 and 14–16, fisher in GMUs 1–5, and beaver taken in GMUs 1–11, 13–15, and 17 must be sealed by an authorized department representative. If you ship furs of these animals to a buyer or auction house out of state, the furs must be sealed before you ship them.

If there is no authorized sealer near you, contact the nearest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A list of area biologists is provided below. We can help you make arrangements to seal your furs. If you or someone you know wants to become a fur sealer, contact one of the regional fur sealing officers listed below.

- There are federal licenses and permits needed to ship within or outside the country. Please check with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if you intend to ship fur out of Alaska to another country, such as Canada. If you intend to ship a wolf, lynx, or river otter skin (raw or tanned) out of the country (for example from Alaska to a fur dealer in Canada) you must get a federal wildlife export permit (also called a CITES permit), a federal import/export license, and arrange for inspection of all furs by a federal agent.

## Regional ADF&G Fur Sealing Officers

Region I (GMUs 1–5)

Paul Converse  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 110024  
Juneau, AK 99811-0024  
(907) 465-4354

Region II (GMUs 6, 7, 8, 14C and 15)

Erik Bollerud  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518  
(907) 267-2357

Region III (GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21,  
24, 25, and 26B,C)

Jesse Dunshie  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(907) 459-7205

Region IV (GMUs 9, 10, 11, 13,  
16, and 7)

Gerrit Van Diest  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
1800 Glenn Hwy #4  
Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-6396

Region V (GMUs 18, 22, 23, and 26A)

Vacant  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 1148  
Nome, AK 99762  
(907) 443-2271



Photo by Jesse Ross

## Area Biologists and Game Management Units

<p>GMU 1(A), 2 Ross Dorendorf (AAB: Tessa Hasbrouck) 2030 Sealevel Drive, Suite 205 KETCHIKAN, AK 99901 Phone: (907) 225-2475 Fax: (907) 225-2771</p>	<p>GMU 1 (B), 3 Frank Robbins (AAB: none) P.O. Box 667 PETERSBURG, AK 99833 Phone: (907) 772-5235 Fax: (907) 772-9336</p>	<p>GMU 4 Steve Bethune (AAB: none) 304 Lake Street Room 103 SITKA, AK 99835-7563 Phone: (907) 747-5449 Fax: (907) 747-6239</p>
<p>GMU 1(C), 1(D), 5 Roy Churchwell (AAB: Carl Koch) P.O. Box 110024 JUNEAU, AK 99811-0024 Phone: (907) 465-4266 Fax: (907) 465-4272</p>	<p>GMU 6 Charlotte Westing (AAB: none) P.O. Box 669 CORDOVA, AK 99574 Phone: (907) 424-3215 Fax: (907) 424-3235</p>	<p>GMU 7, 15 Nick Fowler (AAB: Jason Herreman) 34828 Kalifornsky Beach Rd Ste B SOLDOTNA, AK 99669-8367 Phone: (907) 260-2905 Fax: (907) 262-4709</p>
<p>GMU 8 Nate Svoboda (AAB: John Crye) 211 Mission Road KODIAK, AK 99615 Phone: (907) 486-1880 Fax: (907) 486-1869</p>	<p>GMU 9, 10 Dave Crowley (AAB: none) P.O. Box 37 KING SALMON, AK 99613 Phone: (907) 246-3340 Fax: (907) 246-3309</p>	<p>GMU 11, 13 Heidi Hatcher (AAB: Joelle Helper) P.O. Box 47 GLENNALLEN, AK 99588 Phone: (907) 822-3461 Fax: (907) 822-3811</p>
<p>GMU 12, 20(E) Jeff Gross (AAB: Jeff Wells) P.O. Box 355 TOK, AK 99780-0355 Phone: (907) 883-2971 Fax: (907) 883-2970</p>	<p>GMU 14(A), (B), 16 (A), (B) Tim Peltier (AAB: Chris Brockman) 1800 Glenn Hwy Suite 4 PALMER, AK 99645-6736 Phone: (907) 746-6325 Fax: (907) 746-6305</p>	<p>GMU 14(C) Dave Battle (AAB: Cory Stantorf) 333 Raspberry Road ANCHORAGE, AK 99518-1565 Phone: (907) 267-2185 Fax: (907) 267-2433</p>
<p>GMU 17 Vacant (AAB: none) P.O. Box 230 DILLINGHAM, AK 99576 Phone: (907) 842-2334 Fax: (907) 842-5514</p>	<p>GMU 18 Patrick Jones (AAB: Keith Oster) P.O. Box 1467 BETHEL, AK 99559 Phone: (907) 543-2979 Fax: (907) 543-2021</p>	<p>GMU 19, 21 (A), (E) Josh Peirce (AAB: Jon Barton) P.O. Box 230 MCGRATH, AK 99627 Phone: (907) 524-3323 Fax: (907) 524-3324</p>
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## Trapper Comments

We are looking for ways to improve the trapper questionnaire; please feel free to provide your suggestions. We are also interested in your ideas for trapping in Alaska. Below are responses trappers provided on the 2020 questionnaire to the following question: “Do you have any other comments or suggestions for ADF&G or the Board of Game on how trapping can be improved in Alaska?” Please note that any information that may have identified someone or may have been offensive has been removed.

### NO REGION INDICATED

- 🐾 Allow beaver trapping on the lower Chena river. Beavers are common and are causing property damage.
- 🐾 As per Article VIII, Sections 1-4 of The Constitution of the State of Alaska, I would like to see a more liberal trapping season, in units 1-5. There is no biological reason, not to have trapping seasons of a longer duration, allowing the few professional trappers left in Alaska, to operate in a profitable, sustainable manner. Units 1-5 should be revamped, with longer trapping season durations, and a simplifying of regulations, such as aligning mink and otter season, with the beaver season, since any one of the water species can be caught as non-target bycatch, during beaver season, and there is no legitimate reason trappers should not be allowed to retain and sell these species, during their Fall and Spring beaver trapping harvest. There is no biological shortage of any of these species, and in reality, almost no pressure, in most regions of Southeast Alaska, other than the urban areas. The extremely short trapping seasons, in the Southeast portion of the state, combined with the shortest days of the year, and the frequent winter storms, limit trappers to very few actual days afield, with such short trapping seasons, greatly affecting their ability to make a profit, and simply allowing a sustainable resource to go to waste, that could, would, and according to the State Constitution, SHOULD be providing income for the MAXIMUM BENEFIT OF ITS PEOPLE, ARTICLE VIII Section 2. I would like to see the Board of Game put some serious consideration into actually upholding what the state constitution says, which is managing for MAXIMUM sustainable yield, not a very short, and highly restricted harvest, allowing yet another resource to go to waste, that could otherwise be giving rural village residents at least some form of meager income, at times.
- 🐾 I only get the trapping lisc so that I may predator hunt during the winter. I don't consider that trapping, maybe it is? If so then I messed this survey up. Good Luck!
- 🐾 In a new area and need to re-establish a line. Lynx population was very high this year.
- 🐾 Lower the out of state fees. It gets to be an expensive trip. It was lots of fun, but can only afford to do it once or twice in a lifetime. I did have fun.
- 🐾 Lynx and wolverine are often trapped in the same locations with the same type sets, however the seasons end at different times. It has always confused me how a trapper can be expected to only trap one species once the season for the other has closed. To me the season for these two should close at the same date.
- 🐾 N/A

- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No comment.
- 🐾 Not at this time thank you.
- 🐾 Use of thermal scope on a trapping license would increase safety in numerous ways and productivity of Alaskan trappers.

## REGION I

- 🐾 1. Why is the trapping season for wolverine until April 15th in the arctic regions of Alaska when the kits are born in late February / early March ? 2. What data supports setting "no limit" on wolverine in the arctic regions where the season closes on April 15th?
- 🐾 Advisory committee's in Alaska are helpful, reach out to the members.
- 🐾 Does anyone actually look at sealing data, ie male female ratio for marten, otter, wolves etc? As a biologist I understand data collection, but I hate doing things just to do it.
- 🐾 Education on shared trail use with others and protection for trapping rites state wide as individual municipalities have began implementing there own trapping regulations.
- 🐾 General trapping season in 1D should go until the end of February, instead of Feb. 15th.
- 🐾 I basically get the trapping license incase I feel like doing something in the winter to get me out in the woods.
- 🐾 I haven't set a trap since I was a teenager. I get a trapping license every year for several reasons. Its a way for me to contribute money for research and management and I like to keep my options open. I would like to harvest a coyote or land otter if the chance occurred.
- 🐾 Introduction to trapping courses.
- 🐾 Keep on keeping on!!
- 🐾 Keep up the good work ADF&G!
- 🐾 Make trapping less controversial among the public.
- 🐾 More education on the topic.
- 🐾 N/A
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No.
- 🐾 None
- 🐾 Only purchased to be legal just in case I took grandson out trapping.
- 🐾 Only purchased trapping license so I would be legal in case I did go trapping with grandson.

- 🐾 Open up the season on douglas with no limit.
- 🐾 Overwhelmingly, ADFG WC has done a great job managing furbearers in SEAK! Thank you. I still wish there was a better way to promote communication amongst trappers. Seems it would help to prevent conflict amongst multiple users of the same area. Also as trappers, we need to continue to trap responsibly and keep negative headlines out of the paper. Trapping is undeniably under attack. Dont forget to join the Alaska Trappers Association!
- 🐾 Please manage brown bears as apex predators like the rest of the state does...these big mouths effect fur bearer abundance and bio mass carrying capacity. We Have WAAAAY too many in SE. Maximum yield is what the constitution says. Otter season should align with beaver season on the islands. They are an underutilized species in SE, very abundant, prolific breeders and hard on small fish and crustaceans.
- 🐾 Pow regular wolf trapping season and sea otter should be addressed soon.
- 🐾 Sorry, I am not experienced enough with trapping to offer any useful suggestions. I was only a helper one brief season.
- 🐾 Trap tags for Southeast.
- 🐾 Wolf sign in nearly every drainage around Thorne Bay, N Thorne, Rush Peak, Rio Beaver, Honker Rd, Boyscout, and Beach Rd, salt chuck, tolisoi. Hopefully F&G can achieve an accurate count soon.

## REGION 2

- 🐾 A work colleague had her dog get killed off the Copper River Highway in a sloppy 220 conibear set close to the road. Not sure if there is a solution but requiring trap tags would have at least identified the person so they could have learned from their poor choice of trap placement and concealment at the very least. A trapper education requirement could also possibly help that situation.
- 🐾 Allow flagging sets on the refuge.
- 🐾 Allow river otter trapping concurrent with beaver. Late season "singe" is a myth.
- 🐾 Encourage trappers to keep well away from highly populated areas and highly used trails and trailheads. Just because we may have the legal right to trap there does not make it the right thing to do.
- 🐾 First year trapping, didn't catch anything but had a blast! Cant wait to try again next season.
- 🐾 Had a pretty good season would hope that none of our present laws change. I think they are just right for unit 8. Thank you.
- 🐾 I buy a trapping license to support ADF&G efforts.
- 🐾 I buy the trapping combo so I potentially shoot a fur bearer while hunting other species.

- 🐾 I buy the trapping license because it's my understanding that it allows me to harvest animals that a normal hunting license doesn't necessarily permit, in more areas. I do not purchase the trapping license with the intent of actually setting traps. I prefer the dispatching of animals quickly with as little stress possible to the animal.
- 🐾 I do not.
- 🐾 I feel that there should be a regulation making trappers mark there traps (name, # or license #).
- 🐾 I had a hard time finding regulations and what we can and can not do.
- 🐾 I have very little input on this because this was my first season and it was very short for me due to surgery. I thought the trapping could have been good where I ran my traps. First there seemed to be plenty of the targeted species in the area and second of all I didn't run into anyone else trapping the same area. I had reconstructive knee surgery so my season was less than two weeks, it is hard to give an evaluation with such little time.
- 🐾 I intended to trap for a retirement hobby but had a knee replacement which took me out of trapping last year. I intend to trap next season, God willing! Thanks.
- 🐾 I just get a trapping license so I can hunt animals with it. They don't allow hunting license to cover the same seasons and animals.
- 🐾 I keep getting trapping license with the intent to learn. The opportunity has not presented itself yet.
- 🐾 I normally buy a trapping license to allow me to hunt predators longer and in more areas than is allowed with a regular hunting license. Although I haven't really had the chance yet for a wolf.
- 🐾 I purchase the trapping permit in case the opportunity arises that I am able to do some trapping. I never have the time. The other reason that I purchase the trapping permit is to increase revenue and matching funds for ADF&G. I used to trap in Utah for UDWR/DNR to control predators and rodents (beaver) on critical waters for the native Colorado river cutthroat brood stock lake and fish trap. This was over twenty years ago. Maybe when I retire I will pick it back up but I will continue to support the ADF&G.
- 🐾 I usually get a trapping license because I feel like it offers me a few hunting opportunities that I can't utilize with a regular hunting license. Like selling a wolf hide I shot as I couldn't with just a hunting license or harvesting a beaver or other furbearer I see that I couldn't take with a hunting license. Maybe add some disparity to the regs so I don't have to continue to buy a trapping license.
- 🐾 I'm interested in trapping, just haven't ever done it. I buy the license just in case I get the chance.
- 🐾 I'm more of a hobbyist and did not get anything this year. Better luck next season!
- 🐾 Intended to trap this year but didn't.
- 🐾 Kids!! Wanted to go but couldn't!??

- 🐾 N/A
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No clue. I bought a license thinking I would but didn't.
- 🐾 No comment at this time.
- 🐾 No.
- 🐾 None
- 🐾 None at all. I am buying a trapping licensure to throw a few extra bucks to my state ADF&G folks as I want to see good management of our resources. Cheers to you all.
- 🐾 Nope
- 🐾 Nope
- 🐾 Nope. Except my understanding is that in the winter time when ermines turn white you are allowed to trap em with the license but your not allowed to shoot them. Like with a quality air rifle and a .177 caliber pellet. That would make a small hole and then you'd have a nice weasel rug!
- 🐾 Offer a trapper's education program.
- 🐾 Offering bounties instead of performing predator control.
- 🐾 Rabbit population seems to be growing at or near apex. Lynx tracks are prevalent, I am just not good at trapping them. I have found a fresh wolf killed moose on three consecutive weeks hiking around my trapline area after the season. Wolf population is up and I am planning on getting them next year.
- 🐾 Start killing or relocating eagles. Put a bounty on sea otters. We have a conservation issue happening.
- 🐾 Start putting a limit on wolverine for trapping, low density easy to catch animal should be more regulated. Wolverine open for hunting in the early months (September/October) is just wasting an animal, their fur isn't prime at all and usually shot with a high caliber rifle which wastes them also.
- 🐾 Thank you for managing the resources and keeping trapping an enjoyable winter activity for residents.
- 🐾 Thank you for the trapping option.
- 🐾 Thanks for what you do Keeping trapping alive and well in Alaska!

- 🐾 Trapper education. Too many who don't know what they are doing or trapping in areas used highly by other interest groups are creating a negative perception by non-trappers. Please continue to stand up for our rights to continue enjoying what we do.
- 🐾 Trapping needs to be more highly regulated in areas close to towns, roads, trails, residences, and areas that are also commonly used by other user groups. Codes of ethics only work with some trappers and if people continue to have negative experiences with trappers and their sets, public opinion is going to sway away from trappers. It is already well on its way.

### REGION 3

- 🐾 A back button needs to be included in the survey navigation to allow for the ability to correct mistakes. For example, I caught 3 lynx and 3 marten this year, not 4 and 4.
- 🐾 Alaska is a sportsman's paradise, keep up the good work!
- 🐾 Consider extending the lynx season from February 28th to March 15.
- 🐾 Did not really see any Arctic Fox in the area. Red fox were rare but still a few around.
- 🐾 For the most part I think it is well done. There's conflicts from people who did not grow up in the culture of doing it and shared public use areas cause conflict. There's always bad actors on all sides, but I think that ADF&G does a great job, and the AK Trappers Association (I am not a member) always seems to be conscientious about doing solid outreach and education about how trapping works and they support conservation. Heck, maybe I should join to give them money. I buy a trapping license mostly to support ADF&G, I haven't worked a trap line since I was a child.
- 🐾 Free trapping licenses.
- 🐾 Fur price is too low and no animal like Martin there all gone not even rabbit.
- 🐾 Get it for getting beaver and wolf if I come across them. Which I haven't yet.
- 🐾 Getting young people informed and mentored.
- 🐾 I don't have time to trap much but still buy the license.
- 🐾 I don't trap but I buy the permit anyway.
- 🐾 I get my trapping permit annually to support this activity. I usually run my friend's trap line with him and help out but I don't run my own line. Thanks for supporting this traditional activity here in Alaska.
- 🐾 I spent most of the trapping season doing trapline maintenance. Lots of brushing that was long overdue. Poor prices or none at all, I decided to put my efforts to prepare for next year. At my home in Two Rivers I found many kills of moose on the Chena, a total of 11 by March, so decided to try and get some wolves out of the valley and save a few moose. The wolf pack was large, 15 or more individuals. Very educated and hard to catch. I had a great time. They would not return to a kill and would only run a snowmachine track if it was on the river. On my main trapline, I have witnessed the bunny die off almost 10

years ago and they just don't seem to be coming back like usual. Marten have been down as well as their prey species have all been down. No owls anymore either. Naturally, lynx are very few. I hope to see an increase next year in the prey species. No bunnies or mice, no fur! Although still very abundant, I think beaver are less numerous than they used to be. Why have the muskrats been down for 30 years? Overall, I think the furbearer management in the state has been very good.

- 🐾 I think we should move the trapping seasons dates to a state wide date the same in all units. So I know when the closing date is on each species is it would not be as confusing.
- 🐾 Increased traffic of hunters for 40 mile hunt decreased my effort as I didnt open much of the line to expose gear to the high traffic. Snow events and large numbers of caribou made targeting wolves difficult, although effort was increased in some cases for wolves specifically because of a new trapper who decided to come in on my line and trap wolves.
- 🐾 Is there a website where a person go to see what areas are being trapped? Or where an available trapline might exist? When I lived in Anchorage, I just assumed there was no good trapping anywhere within 1-2 hours of town. It's always tough to learn where to start and not piss people off.
- 🐾 Lengthen the lynx season in unit 24 to March 15th. Most other GMU have this already.
- 🐾 May trap in the future. Time did not allow this last season.
- 🐾 More checks of individuals, I was passed numerous times by troopers out in the field and other than a wave none stop to see what I was up to or check me. I appreciate the hard work and effort the officers do and understand they are responsible for alot of ground. But talking with the sportsman will help identify local concerns and potential individuals we have encountered that might not be as ethical as the rest. Again nothing but respect for the officers. So thank you all for what you do for the sportsman.
- 🐾 More positive advertising.
- 🐾 NA
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No suggestions for Trapping but I have plenty of complaints about the Draw and Lottery process currently ongoing.
- 🐾 No. My husband traps and I don't trap. However I always buy a trapping license in case I'm out with him and end up handling an animal for him, or in case I have to go check his traps for him. Thanks.
- 🐾 None
- 🐾 Nope
- 🐾 Opening dates need to be moved 2-3 weeks later due to later freeze

-  Please add a regulation on how far you can trap from Private property Please add regulations on how close to trap to other trapper This saves the troopers from giving their personal opinion and making the trapper feel like he did something wrong when in fact it's not a regulation, but rather his buddy is trapping near by. Regulations are too loose. We have ethics that mean nothing to a trooper. Regs do not match ethics. It's unethical, but not against the regulations. Example a trapper set traps around a bait that I was actively setting up. It's unethical per the trapper ethics, but legal. Troopers indicated that they don't care about the ethics they only care about the laws. So let's either get rid of the ethics and or make the regs match the ethics. Ethics mean nothing to some guys, so why even print them if they are not enforceable ??
-  Please protect it.
-  State wide leash law on pets!!!!
-  Traps should have to be marked with the name of the trapper. Controlled use areas should be established around population centers to prevent conflict with trappers. Trapping within a specified distance from a public use cabin should be established.
-  Would like to see more trapper education classes.

## REGION 4

-  (Aerial wolf Hunting) I would like to know who decided and called the shots on opening a aerial wolf hunting in sub unit 13a. Whom ever it was ruined my trapping season. I'm pretty sour about aerial wolf hunting in my area. Just imagine setting up 25 blind sets for wolves in sub zero conditions not to mention breaking 50 miles of trail. Come in on your first check and have super cubs running them out of the drainage you just set. My target animals this year wolf and wolverine. Catch 0 wolves. My catch 2 years prior 8 Years trapping the area 27. That Herts ??
-  200 ft. Buffer from main highways of no trapping allowed. Lazy trappers are hurting us all...
-  Align fox and lynx with coyote season. Align marten with mink and ermine. People aren't trapping for profit the ones that are are fooling themselves and no one is going to negatively affect population until fur prices improve.
-  Allow use of camp on public land for extent of trapping season so trappers have safety areas to overnight in. For fly in trapping it is a challenge without being able to have a camp setup during the season.
-  Certain regions away from a road corridor, 12 mile off the road, should be considered for registered traplines. The competition to do any real trapping is counter productive. I would get more serious if I didnt have to fight masses of trappers every time the rabbit population bounced. Also consider another printing of the ADFG books that listed furbearer habitats and population throughtout the state. All of those books were of great interest and value to outdoorsman.

- 🐾 Don't start Lynx season until Dec 15th. They are not prime until then. I have said this on everyone of these deals over the years. No one listens. This is for Unit 13.
- 🐾 Fix the beaver regulations in unit 17 and allow unlimited harvest with a firearm during the entire season and drop the must consume stipulation on spring shot beaver it is virtually unenforceable and makes no sense that I can only shoot two a day but can trap 50 on that same day in the spring.
- 🐾 Hold people that are not following the rules and regulations accountable I had another trapper decide to trap over me and was setting off my traps.
- 🐾 I appreciate the Wildlife Management Report I received last year, it's been very beneficial in planning more trapping adventure.
- 🐾 I buy the combination hunt, fish, trap to help support the activity. Perhaps one day I will learn how and begin trapping myself.
- 🐾 I buy the trapping license in case I get the opportunity to trap. I have never been invited to trap with anyone yet. The cost is minimal and it's a convenience thing for me. Also, I can't say enough how well your website works and is always improving. Thank you.
- 🐾 I buy the trapping license in case I need it to legally take an animal that requires a trapping license when I'm out.
- 🐾 I buy the trapping license to support the industry and resource management.
- 🐾 I buy the trapping license to support trapping even if I'm not a trapper.
- 🐾 I live in a semi remote area that has a lot of "weekend trappers" There is always conflict with someone trapping over someone else. Also would like to see more enforcement especially after seasons close to ensure trappers springing traps and not trapping after seasons close.
- 🐾 I received a trapper license to deal with a nuisance beaver which blocked access to our property.
- 🐾 I want to experience it one day with my known friend trappers.
- 🐾 I would like to see a matchup of Marten, Mink, and Weasel season in Unit 14. Currently they end at different times, which can pose a challenge as the same set (leaning pole set) can catch weasel and marten effectively, and a similar problem exists with mink/weasel.
- 🐾 I would like to see unit 14 trapping begin Mid to late October.
- 🐾 I'm just learning and enjoying getting back into trapping from my child hood days....Just wish I was still young. Haha. Being able to use the road kill program made a huge impact on my success this year. The program is great!
- 🐾 Increase education and awareness toward non-trappers on the legality of tampering with traps and trapping activities.
- 🐾 It seemed like there was more issues with stolen traps and stolen animals on my trapline than in years past. Not sure why though, or what can be done about it.

- 🐾 Limit to number of trappers around Palmer hay flats?
- 🐾 Make people that recently moved here take a trapper education course .The woods are over run with inexperienced ignorant people that think they know what they are doing . These people generally among other things like setting 330 conibears to close to people have no respect for other trappers grounds even brushed maintained traplines with a history of use.
- 🐾 My not trapping is only because I lacked time and opportunity on my part. I certainly hope to be able to trap again in the future.
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No comments at this time. Thank you.
- 🐾 No I buy the license just in case I decide to trap and to support F&G.
- 🐾 No, not at this time.
- 🐾 None
- 🐾 Not at this time.
- 🐾 Not really, my first season trapping here, I have trapped all over the northeastern u.s., an entirely new way of trapping, not used to the signage and trapping ""morals g here, but learning. very different, not complaining , but trappers here seem to welcome other trappers as long as they are NOT TRAPPING NEAR THEM, LOL.
- 🐾 Please extend the wolverine season to the end of February.
- 🐾 Please stand for are right to trap and hunt.So many other states are falling to the anti hunters and trappers thank you.
- 🐾 Predator hunter I get trapping on my license to help the state.
- 🐾 Sadly, due to a Covid filled school year, I was only able to trap the first half of the season and was not able to trap at all in 2021. I have no recommendations to improve trapping in Alaska.
- 🐾 Seems like system works well in this area...However, aerial hunting should not be allowed.
- 🐾 So much snow intermitten rains/ thaws and other distractions were why I didn't trap this year. It would have been too hard to maintain sets.

- 🐾 Start seasons later after fur has primed up and let seasons go longer.
- 🐾 Start the trapping season later in 16B due to the weather conditions making it difficult to access to trap.
- 🐾 Thank you for all your work its much appreciated.
- 🐾 Thank You for the work you folks do.
- 🐾 Thanks!
- 🐾 The trapping license is also required to participate in any predator control efforts.
- 🐾 There seems to be alot more trappers around the lake louise area.
- 🐾 There should be more trapper education funded through ADFG. We have hunter and fishing education programs which are both successful. Currently options for new trappers are very limited and these new trappers seem to increase conflicts with other outdoor enthusiast. I am very happy that lynx season was opened up in 16a with the other species, makes it work setting some traps out for them. I do wish otter and muskrat would open up in conjunction with the earlier beaver season. I have not set several locations trying to avoid any by catch, but it would be nice if all "water trapping" opened at the same date. We would put along more effort into muskrat, mink, otter and beaver if they all opened together in September or early October, but with the possibility of having some open water instead of chiseling through feet of ice.
- 🐾 This is why I get a trapping license Most furbearers are taken with either traps (including foothold and killer-style or body-grip traps) or snares, " but can also be shot with firearms unless specifically prohibited."
- 🐾 Trapping needs to be protected for future generations. Step up enforcement of trapper harassment. User group conflicts are on the rise and the trapper, no matter what winds up on the losing end. Unrestrained dogs are the primary conflict. These conflicts are emotionally charged and end up with stolen gear with little to no recourse for the trapper. The trapper is expected to bend to the will of other user groups. Likewise, enforcement of the trapping regulations against trappers doing things the wrong way needs to also be addressed.
- 🐾 Trapping needs to be regulated more, trap lines should have to be registered and spread out more before there's nothing left to trap! Similar to Canada's regs.

## REGION 5

- 🐾 Earlier start date for fur animals, such as Martin, Wolf, Lynx and Wolverine. Fur looks good in Late October.
- 🐾 Extend season length to end of April.
- 🐾 More information and get it out sooner to the trappers.
- 🐾 Need to teach the younger generation trappers ethics.
- 🐾 No

- 🐾 No
- 🐾 None
- 🐾 Not at this time.
- 🐾 Publicize that a firearm under certain circumstances is considered a teapppng methodology.
- 🐾 Somebody vandalized all of my traps in early February. They cut all my snares with a bolt cutter and ended my season. This happens to me about every other year. It is too bad people break the law and do this.
- 🐾 The ridiculous amount of snow we had really took the fun out of trapping this year.
- 🐾 What did the beaver say when it chipped its tooth? DAM IT!



Photo by Jesse Ross

## Author's Note

I cannot thank ADF&G Information Services and our Division of Wildlife Conservation lead webmaster enough for their efforts and assistance in perfecting the online version of the questionnaire, compiling data, and running some of the analyses for this 2020 report.

I would also like to extend my thanks to everyone responding to the questionnaire. I hope we can continue to improve the questionnaire in a way that will lead to an increased response rate and more valuable information to those utilizing this report. For many of the species involved in this report, you are our primary source of knowledge. We use your responses to determine what is happening with the furbearers to better manage those populations for future generations to enjoy. Please continue to respond to the questionnaire in the future and encourage others to do the same. If you know of anyone wanting to receive future questionnaires, please have them contact me by phone or email (see below).

Lastly, I want to extend a special thanks to the trappers who provided pictures.<sup>2</sup> It is important to document your efforts, especially to help pass along proper techniques to the next generation of trappers in Alaska, and I greatly appreciate your willingness to share those experiences with me and with other trappers.

Thank you and good luck this season!

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Photo by Jim Crystoff

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<sup>2</sup> If you submit a photo of someone other than yourself, please ensure you have received that person's permission to utilize the photo. If a child is in the photo, please ensure that the parents/guardian have authorized the use of the photo



