

Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Work Session
Alaska Board of Game
January 11, 2013 – Sitka, Alaska

Purpose: The Alaska Board of Game is providing this public work session as a mechanism to:

- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders involved in the development of the 2000 Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy (BBMS) to share their insights and perspectives on the strategy's development, content, and utility in guiding brown bear management in Unit 4;
- Provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to ask questions and share perspectives on the BBMS and its utility; and
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders and members of the public to share issues or concerns about brown bear management and allocations in Unit 4.

Process:

- Board of Game Chair, Ted Spraker, will oversee the work session and discussion, and will ensure all stakeholders and interested members of the public are provided an opportunity to share their thoughts with the group;
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff will be available to take notes and capture shared information and key points;
- Participants are asked to keep their comments brief and to the point, and to respectfully listen to ideas and comments shared by others.

Expected outcomes: The work session is expected to result in:

- Information sharing, learning, and clarifying among Board members, the department, and the public about the BBMS and its utility for guiding brown bear management and allocation in Unit 4;
- Identification of existing issues and concerns about brown bear management and allocations in Unit 4; and
- Identification of possible future steps or actions to address existing issues and concerns with brown bears in Unit 4.

The session is NOT expected to result in any final decisions or implementation of any specific actions, though information shared and gleaned during the work session may help inform Board members in their later deliberations of proposals and possible actions.

*Submitted by ADFG
- Boards Support*

Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Team (2000)

- Greg Streveler: (BBMT Chair) Alaska Board of Game
- Eruk Williamson: Alaska Board of Game
- Paul Johnson / Mike Sofoulis: Southeast Alaska Guide Association, Alaska Professional Hunters Assoc.
- Marti Marshall: U.S. Forest Service
- Bob Hinman / Ron Somerville: Territorial Sportsmen
- Bruce Baker / KJ Metcalf: Friends of Admiralty Island, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
- Mim McConnell: Port Alexander Fish and Game Advisory Committee
- Jerry Barber: Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee
- Bob Engelbrecht / Bob Janes: Alaska Visitors Association
- Paul Grant: Admiralty Bear Association
- Scott Newman / Dave Helmick: Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee
- Ken Schoonover / Mike Deppner: Huna Totem Corporation
- Jack Whitman: Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Steve Behnke / Jeff Sloss: Alaska Wilderness and Recreation Tourism Association
- Floyd Kookesh: Federal Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
- Alternates: Joel Bennett, Brad Dennison, Greg Petrich, Janice Searles
- Staff: Tom Paul, ADF&G
- Facilitators: Diana Cote, Kim Garner, Doug Larsen
- Recorders: Elizabeth Andrews, Ellen Fritts, Doug Larsen, Fran Preston

Alaska Board of Game
Findings 2000 -134 BOG
Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy

At its meeting in Juneau, Alaska, November 1-7, 2000, the Board of Game (Board) received the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy (Strategy), heard a summary of the Strategy presented by the Unit 4 Brown Bear Planning Team (Team), and considered public testimony on the subject. Based on this information, and in consideration of the Board's statutory authorities and requirements, the Board supports the Strategy as indicated by the endorsement of these Findings.

The Board reached the following conclusions:

1. The planning process used by the Team involved a wide range of public and agency interests in formulating comprehensive management recommendations for Unit 4 brown bears.
2. The recommendations in the Strategy are a comprehensive compromise package. To maintain the integrity of the compromise embodied in the Strategy, all essential elements must be implemented in a timely and reasonable manner.
3. Recommendations in the Strategy are both within and outside the jurisdiction of the Board. Recommendations within the jurisdiction of the Board include setting mortality guidelines, prioritizing options for hunting regulation changes should the mortality guidelines be exceeded, and adjusting regulations as needed to assist management of bear hunting/viewing areas.
4. As previously determined by the Board, brown bears in Unit 4 are customarily and traditionally used for subsistence and the amount necessary for subsistence uses is 5-10 bears. Recently, the Federal Subsistence Board, in response to a proposal by the Southeast Regional Federal Subsistence Council, authorized five federal registration permits annually for educational purposes of teaching customary and traditional subsistence harvest and use practices. The Board supports this action as long as the risk of overharvest is minimized.
5. The existing codified regulations governing the taking of Unit 4 brown bears (5 AAC 85.020) provide a framework within which the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (Department) can administer hunts consistent with the harvest recommendations in the Strategy through exercise of discretionary authority vested in the Department under 5 AAC 92.052. Therefore, no changes are necessary in the codified regulations to implement the recommendations of the Strategy with respect to harvest.

Based on these findings, the Board:

1. Supports the package of recommendations from the Team and urges other agencies and entities with the power to implement these recommendations to do so.

2. Requests the Department to manage hunting of Unit 4 brown bears to maintain a total 3-year average human-caused mortality guideline that does not exceed 4% of each island (Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagof, Northeast Chichagof) population, and a total 3-year average human-caused female mortality guideline that does not exceed 1.5% of each island population.
3. Requests that the Department follow the recommended priority for hunting regulation changes should the mortality guidelines be exceeded. They are:
 - In the event that human-caused mortality guidelines are exceeded for one season or year, the Department will attempt to change the next year's outcome by obtaining voluntary harvest adjustment from guides and hunters.
 - In the event that documented human-caused mortality calculated on a 3-year average is exceeded, the following options will be evaluated and implemented if appropriate.
 - 1) Mandatory adjustment of number of guided hunters by US Forest Service (USFS).
 - 2) Season adjustments.
 - 3) Establish drawing permits for nonresidents on a Guide Use Area basis.
 - 4) Establish drawing permits for residents only after above management alternatives have been employed.
 - All non-subsistence hunting by residents will, when necessary, be by registration permit, until the resident harvest exceeds 70% of the harvest guideline for a given population. If resident harvest exceeds 70% of the harvest guideline, institute a resident drawing permit hunt.
 - Consider all proposed regulatory actions or steps in the context of their effect on bear harvest in the entire Southeast Alaska region, not just Unit 4.
 - Cooperate with the USFS in management of habitat and access.
4. Will strive to bring State regulations into harmony with Federal subsistence regulations that provide additional opportunity to take brown bears under an educational permit for the purposes of teaching customary and traditional subsistence harvest and use practices.
5. Supports the concept of Brown Bear Special Use Zone (SUZ) management that accommodates both hunting and viewing and will consider seasons, methods and means, limited area closures and other regulations as necessary on a case-by-case basis to implement SUZ's in appropriate areas in Unit 4. Will consider use of this model for viewing area proposals elsewhere in Alaska.
6. Supports the concept of Human/Bear High Use Zone management that aims to keep key riparian and shore habitat available to bears and requests the Department cooperate with the USFS in the identification of such zones, and will consider regulations as necessary on a case-by-case basis to implement appropriate management in these zones.

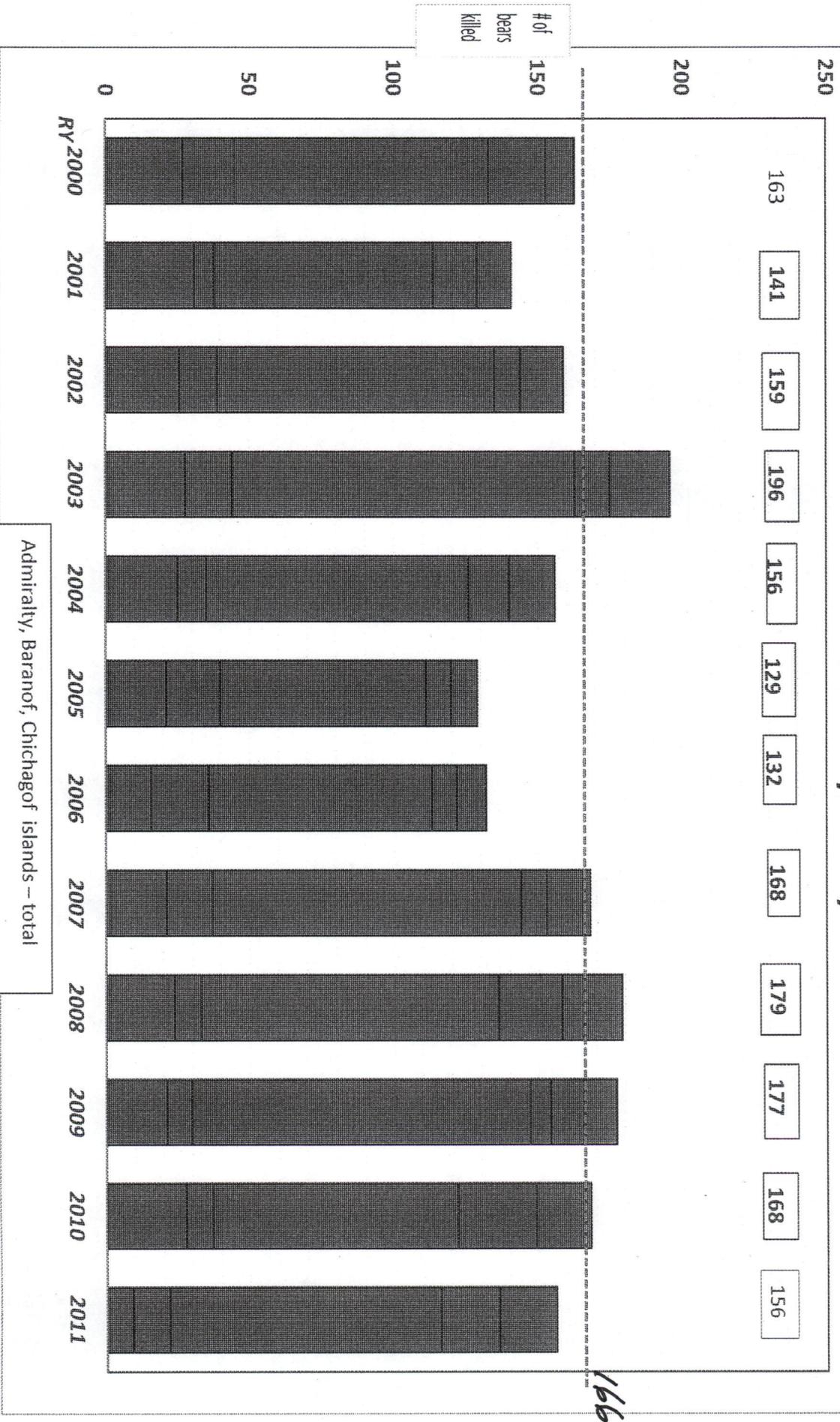
7. Encourages the USFS to incorporate the team's recommendations in its Saltwater Shoreline-based Outfitter/Guide Analysis and Environmental Impact Statement for the northern Tongass National Forest.
6. Supports the USFS moratoria on guides and hunts in Units 1 and 4, pending the outcome of the ongoing USFS planning process.
7. Requests the Department to Prepare and distribute educational materials on hunter ethics and other information to help minimize wounding loss and the harvest of females.

Vote: 7 - 0
November 9, 2000

Lori Quakenbush

Lori Quakenbush, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

GMU4 Brown Bear Mortality History - 2000-2011



Unit 4 Human-caused Brown Bear Mortality 2000-2011

