



Subsistence Overview

Presentation to the Alaska Board of Game
Wasilla, Alaska – January 2025



Lauren Sill and Jackie Keating
RC 4 Tab 1.4




Presentation Overview

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- 1. Overview of ADF&G Division of Subsistence
- 2. Southwest Region (GMUs 9, 10, and 17)
- 3. Southwest Region Research Updates
- 4. Central Region (GMUs 11, 13, 14 A+B, 16)
- 5. Central Region Research Updates

Overview of ADF&G Subsistence



ADF&G Subsistence Mission

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Mission


Scientifically gather, quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources. AS 16.05.094

C&T

Customary and Traditional Uses


ANS

Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence




Nanwalek salmon harvest surveys, 2018

Overview of ADF&G Subsistence




ADF&G Subsistence Research


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Quantitative and qualitative research




Most projects are partnerships




Research guided by ethical principles



Participation is voluntary and confidential




Community review of draft data



Mentasta Community Data Review, 2023

Overview of ADF&G Subsistence




Comprehensive Household Harvest Surveys


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Research Focus

- Methods of harvesting and processing
- Harvest and use estimates
- Sharing of wild foods
- Search areas
- Trends in resource use
- Demographics and income




Goal: holistic understanding of mixed cash-subsistence economy, and subsistence ways of life



An ADF&G researcher conducts a household harvest survey in Kodiak

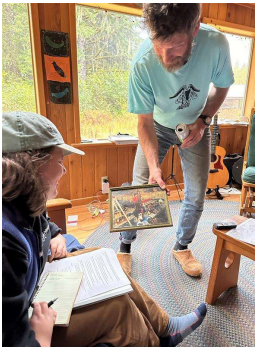
Overview of ADF&G Subsistence



Ethnography


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Semi-structured Interviews




1. Key respondent interview, Gustavus.

Participant Observation




2. Division researcher dry scraping moose skin.

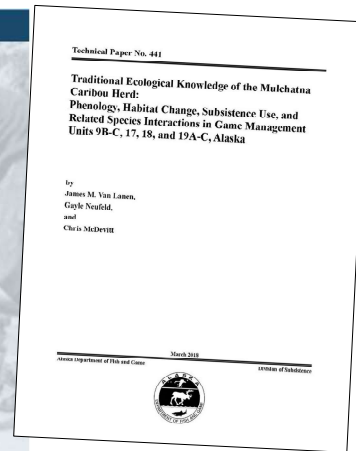
Life History Mapping



3. Life history mapping in Kodiak, 2023.

Overview of ADF&G Subsistence



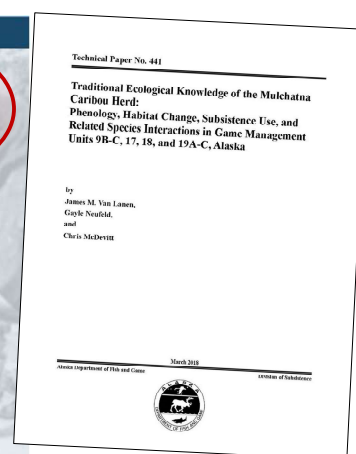


<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>



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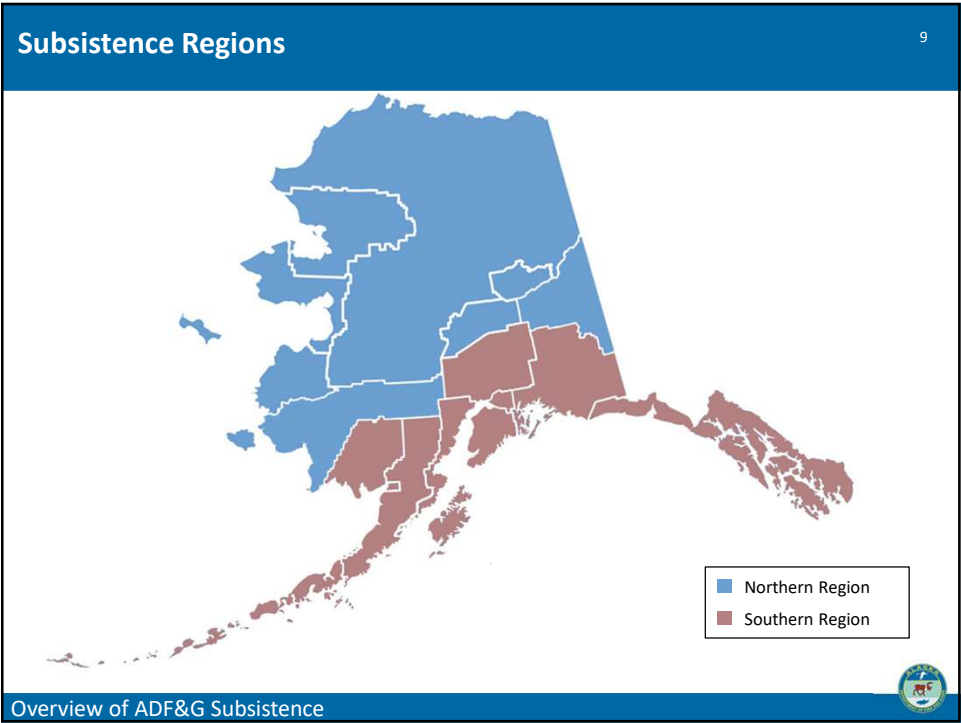
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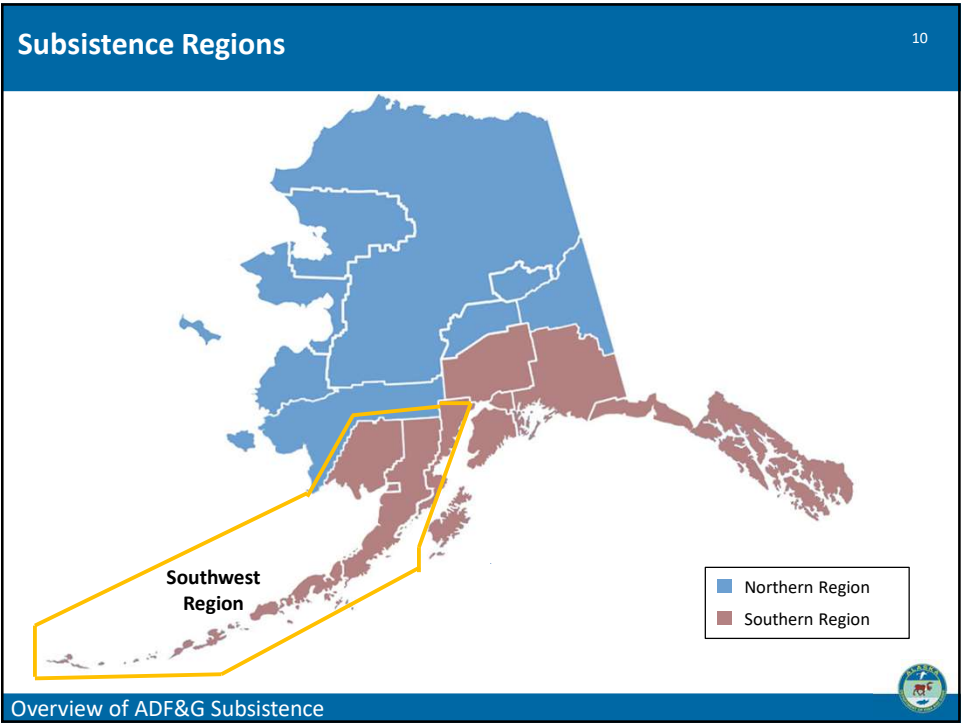
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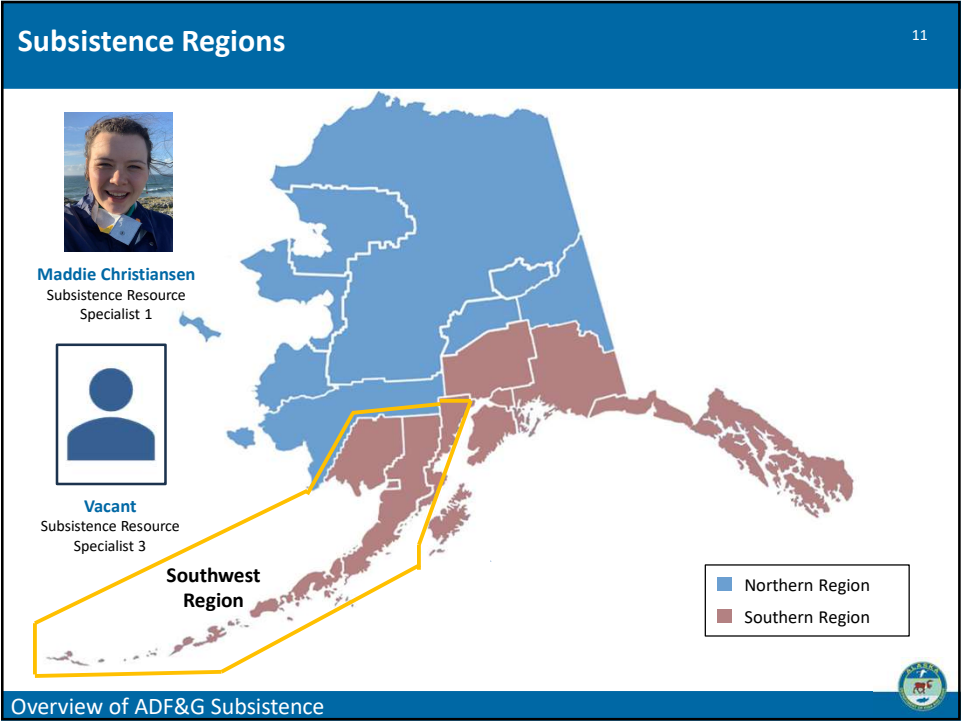
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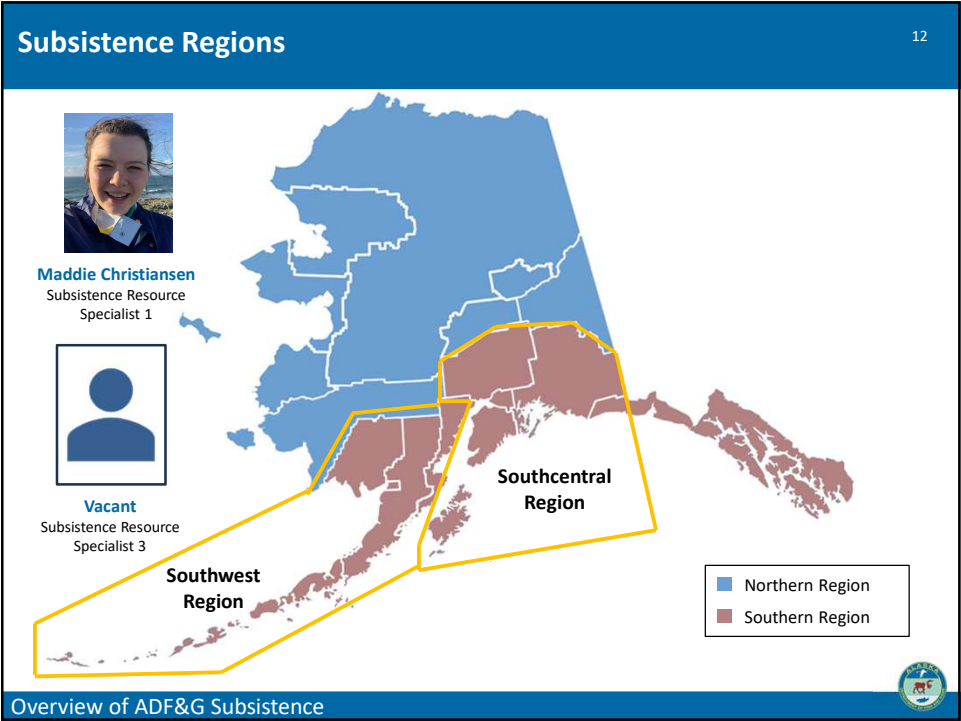
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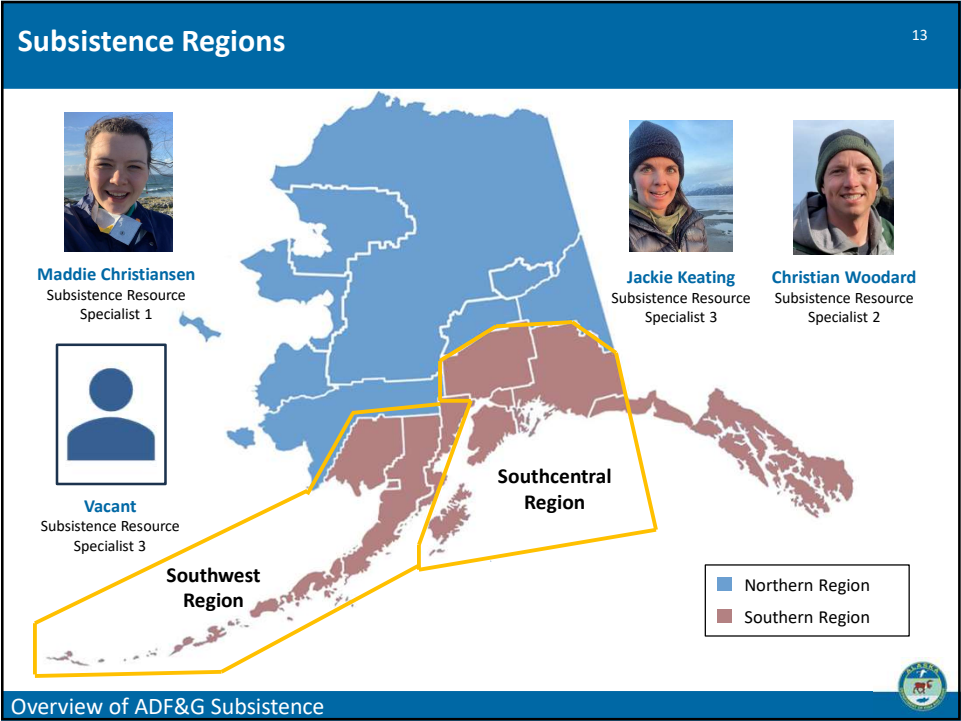
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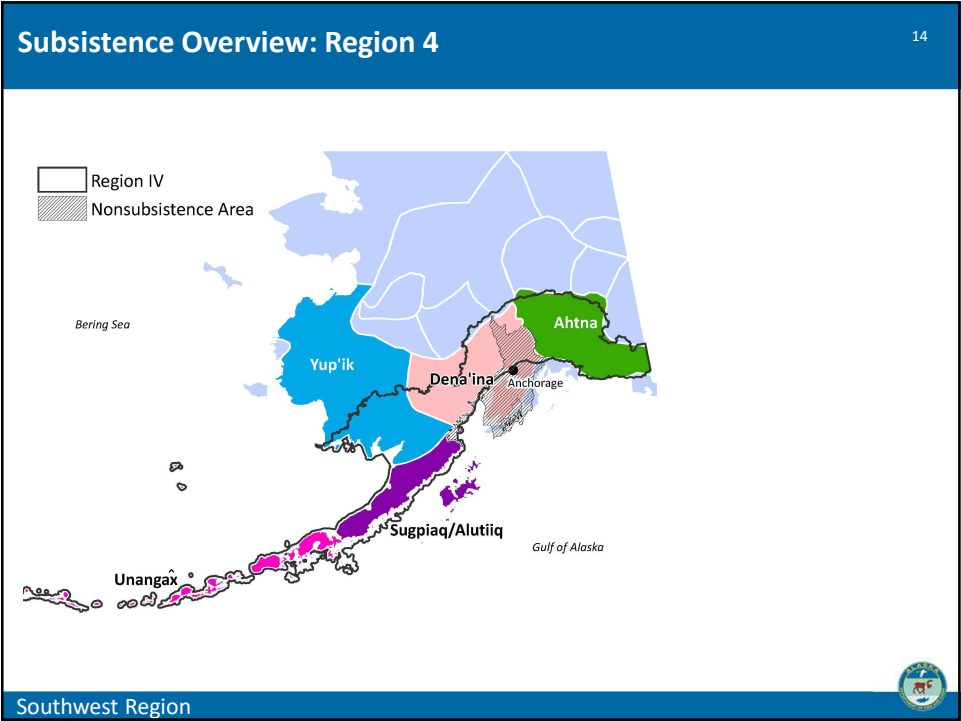
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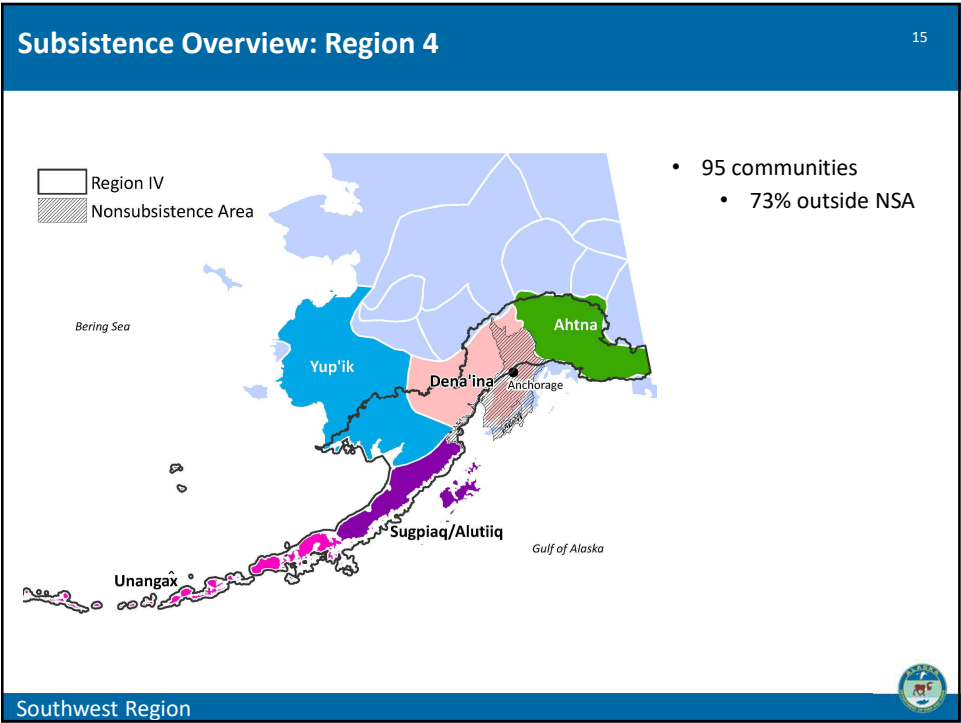
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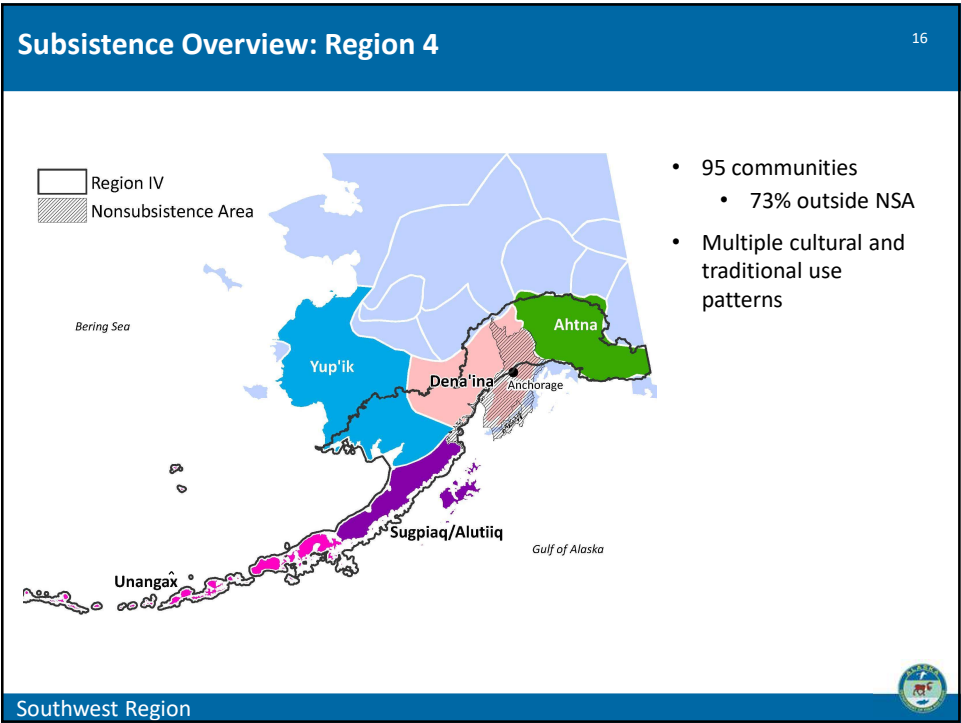
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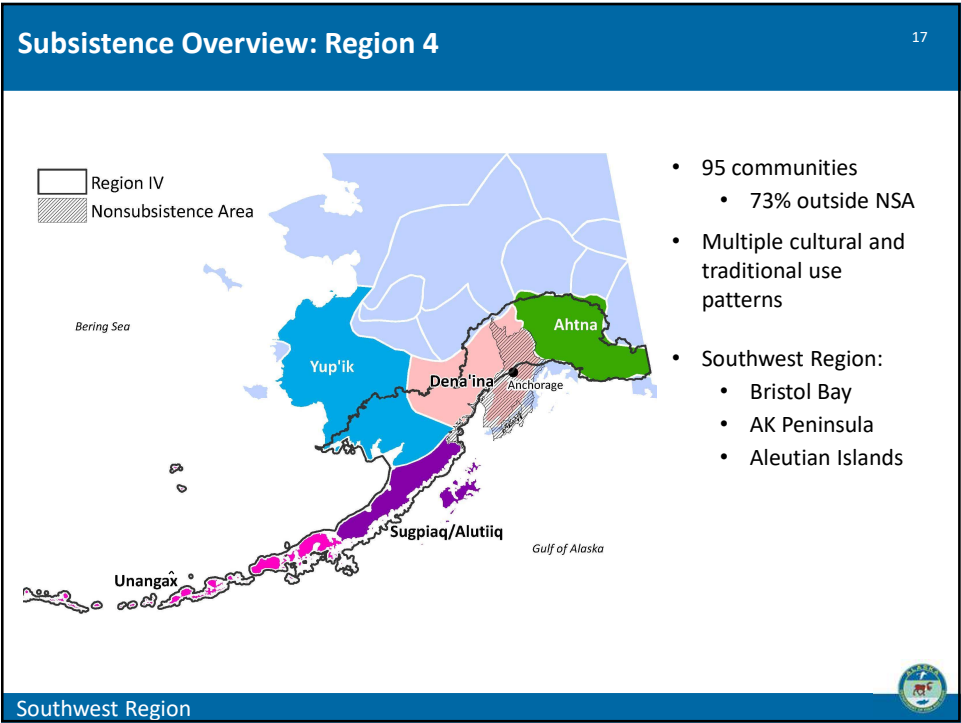
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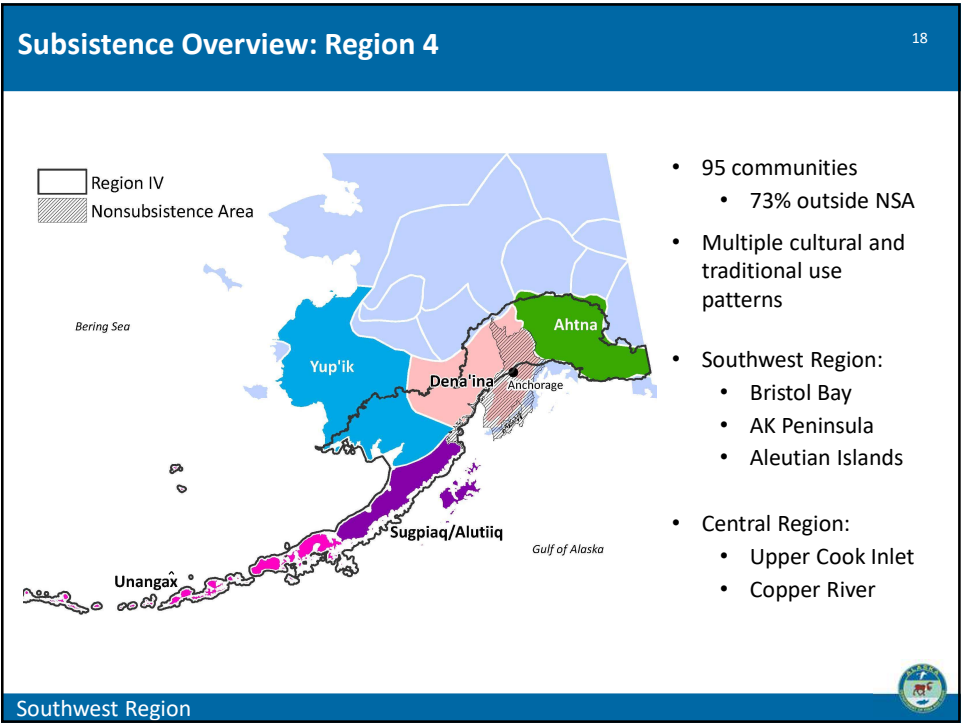
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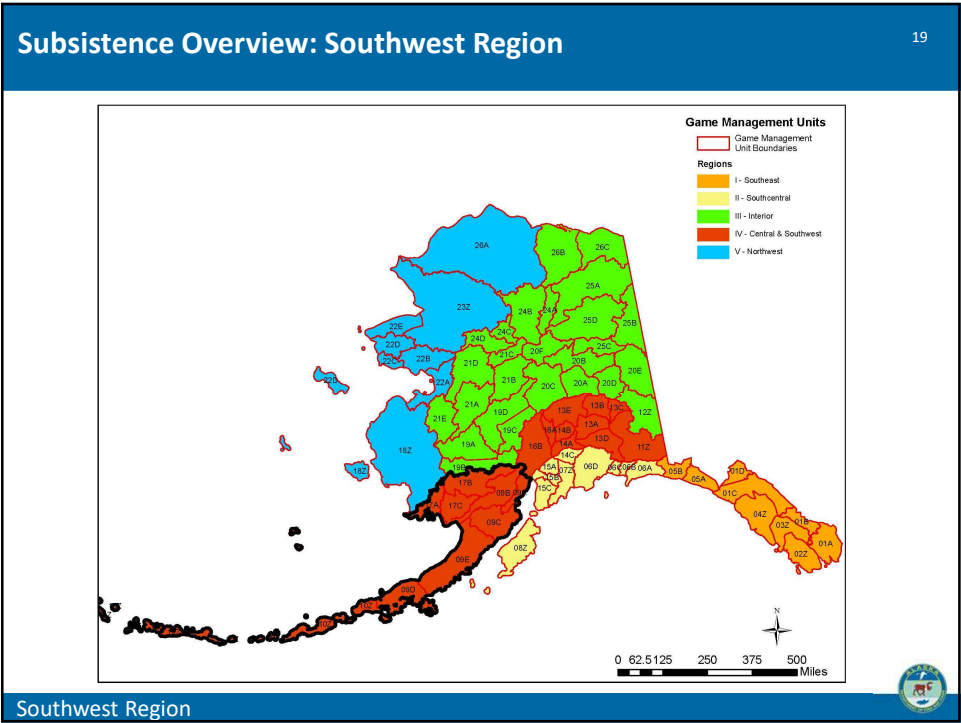
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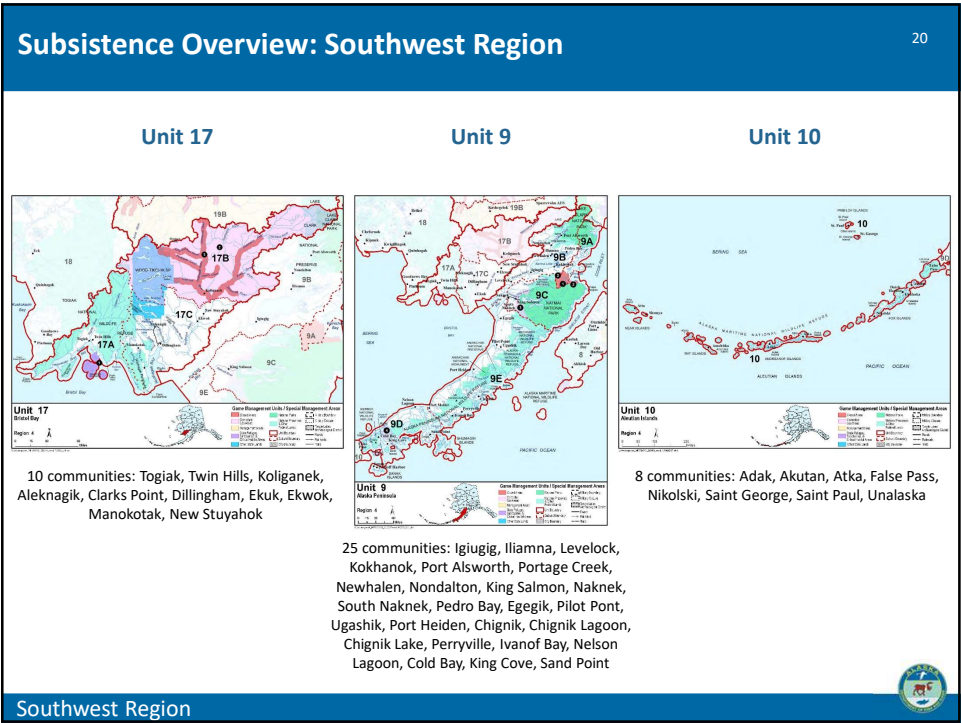
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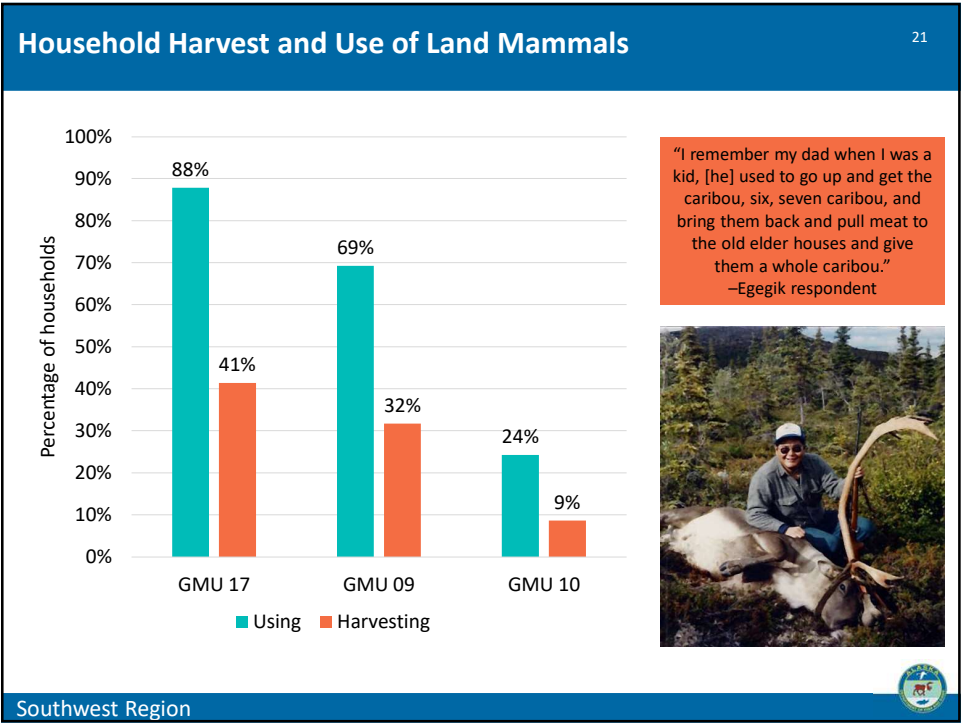


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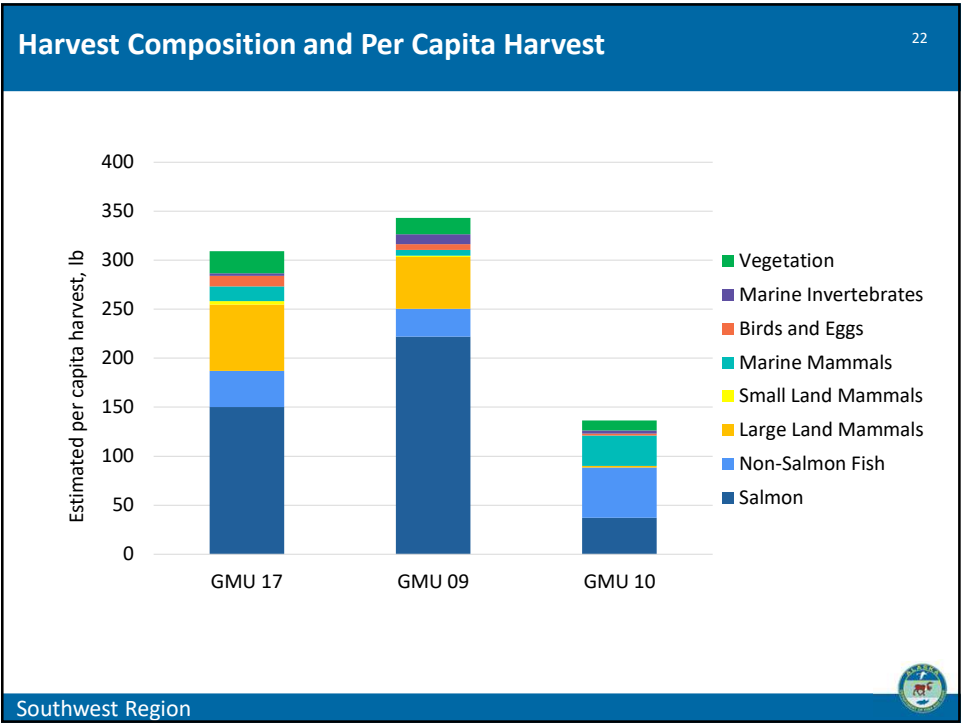


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Bristol Bay Ethnographic Overview23

GMUs 17 and 9A, 9B, 9C, 9E

- Traditional territories of Dena’ina Athabascan and Central Yup’ik
- Primary species harvested: Salmon, moose, caribou, bear
- Harvest timing: Fall through spring
- Access: Skiff, snowmachines
- Preservation methods: Fresh, frozen, canned
- Importance of sharing: Resources, labor, equipment
- Values: Kinship, community, respect for elders







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Aleutians/AK Peninsula Ethnographic Overview24

GMUs 9D and 10

- Traditional territories of Alutiiq/Sugpiaq and Unangaꝰ people
- Salmon, marine mammals, caribou
- Harvest timing: Fall, spring; September
- Access: Commercial boats, skiffs, ATVs
- Short hunting trips
- Preservation methods: Fresh, frozen
- Kinship ties: Groups of related hunters harvest together, train younger generation
- Sharing: Resources, labor, equipment





“Five to ten different guys go out hunting and they get their limit, or if they don’t get anything they just share with whatever the other guys got ... it’s been like that all the time.”
—Chignik Lake respondent



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Southwest Region Caribou C&T findings



Top photo: Igiugig caribou harvest
Bottom photo: Hunters search for caribou

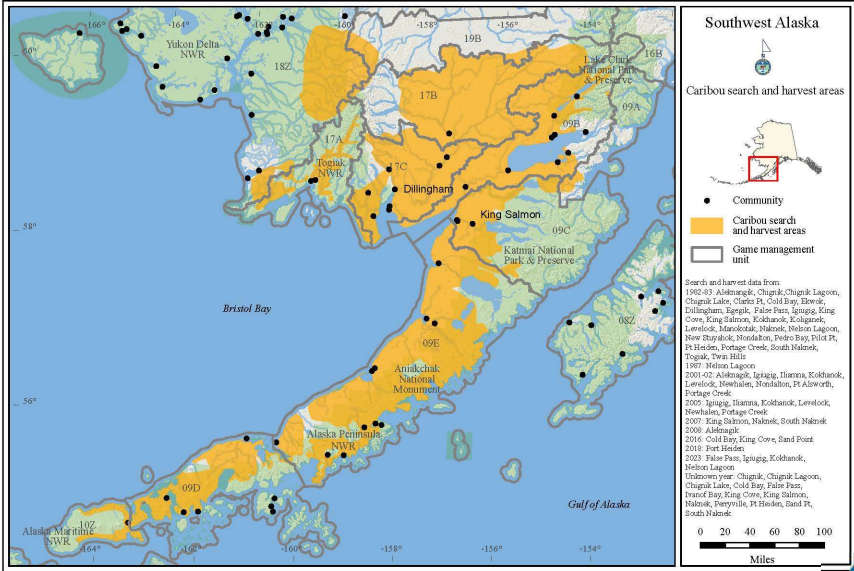
Caribou Herd	Finding	ANS
Mulchatna (Units 9A, 9B, 17, 18, 19A, 19B)	Positive	2,100-2,400
Northern AK Peninsula (Units 9C, 9E)	Positive	1,200-1,900
Southern AK Peninsula (Units 9D, 10)	Positive	100-150
Unimak Island (Unit 10)	Positive	No finding yet
Nushagak Peninsula (Units 17A, 17C)	Positive	No finding yet
Adak Island (Unit 10)	Negative	

Southwest Region



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Southwest Region Caribou Search and Harvest Areas



Southwest Alaska

Caribou search and harvest areas


- Community
- Caribou search and harvest areas
- Game management unit

Search and harvest data from:

- 1980-83: Aleknagik, Igarkaig, Hama, Kolihansk, Levelok, Neelahn, Nandahon, Pt Alsworth, Portage Creek
- 1987: Hama Lagoon
- 2001-02: Aleknagik, Igarkaig, Hama, Kolihansk, Levelok, Neelahn, Nandahon, Pt Alsworth, Portage Creek
- 2005: Igarkaig, Hama, Kolihansk, Levelok, Neelahn, Portage Creek
- 2007: King Salmon, Hama, South Hama
- 2008: Aleknagik
- 2010: Cold Bay, King Cove, East Port
- 2011: Fort Haden
- 2012: False Pass, Igarkaig, Kolihansk, Neelahn Lagoon
- Unknown year: Chignik, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Cold Bay, False Pass, False Bay, King Cove, King Salmon, Nushagak, Pellyville, Pt Haden, Sand Pt, South Hama

0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles



Southwest Region



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Southwest Region Moose C&T Findings




Units	Finding	ANS
Units 9(A), 9(B), 9(C), and 9(E)	Positive	100 – 140
Unit 17	Positive	100 – 150
Unit 9(D)	Negative	

You got two or three moose ... you clean them up all together and cut them up all together and split them up. That used to be the old way and it's still the same thing now.”

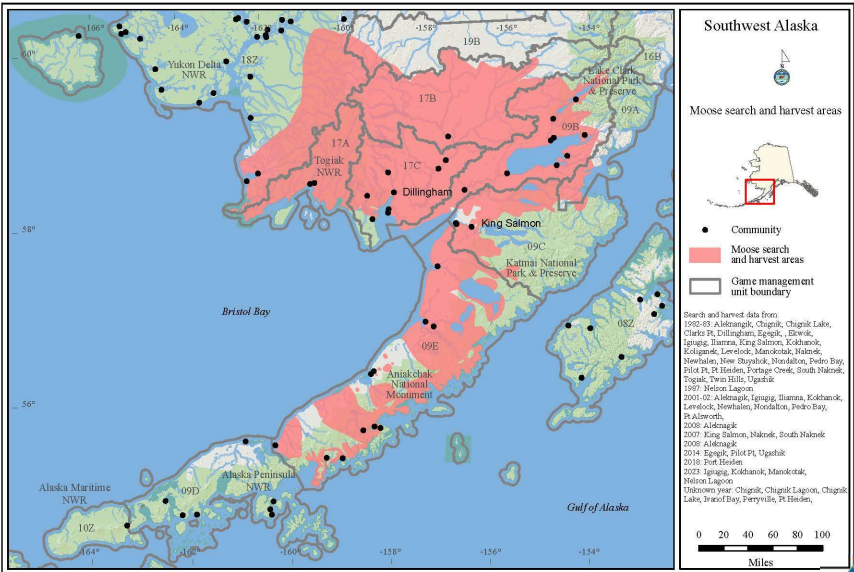
—Chignik Lagoon respondent

Southwest Region




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Southwest Region Moose Search and Harvest Areas





Southwest Region




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Southwest Region Bear C&T Findings

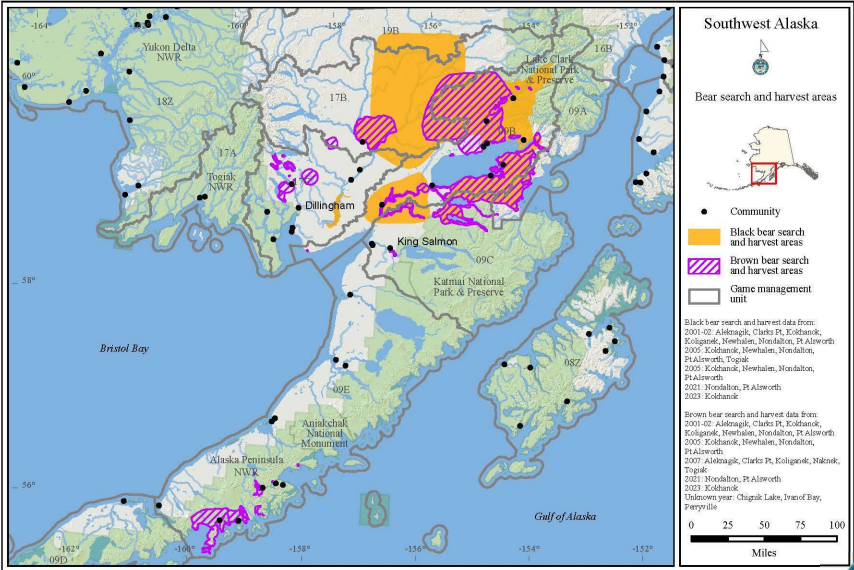


Species	Unit	Finding	ANS
Black Bear			
	Unit 17	Negative	
	Unit 9	None	
Brown Bear			
	Unit 9B	Positive	10-20
	Unit 9E	Positive	10-15
	Unit 17A and 17B, portion	Positive	5
	Units 17B, portion, 17C, 19A and 19B, portions, 19D	Positive	10-15
	Units 9A, 9C, 9D	Negative	
	Unit 10	Negative	


Southwest Region




Southwest Region Black and Brown Bear Search and Harvest Areas




Southwest Region



Southwest Region C&T Findings				31
Species	Unit	Finding	ANS	
Sheep				
	9; 17	None		
Wolves				
	9	Positive	10-28	
	10	Positive	0-1	
	17	Positive	No finding yet	
Furbearers				
	All units w/harvestable surplus	Positive	90% harvestable portion	
Southwest Region				

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Southwest Region C&T Findings				32
Species	Unit	Finding	ANS	
Ptarmigan				
	9, 10, 17	Positive	No finding yet	
Migratory game birds				
	All units w/harvestable surplus	Positive	No finding yet	
Snowshoe hare				
	9,10,17	Positive	No finding yet	
Alaska hare				
	9, 10, 17	Positive	No finding yet	
Southwest Region				


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Southwest Region Research


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Recently completed comprehensive subsistence harvest surveys

- Port Alsworth and Nondalton (Unit 9B), study year 2021
- Kokhanok and Igiugig (Unit 9B), study year 2022
- Manokotak (Unit 17C), study year 2023
- False Pass and Nelson Lagoon (Unit 10), study year 2023



Southwest Region



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Southwest Region Research

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Recently completed comprehensive subsistence harvest surveys

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- Kokhanok and Igiugig (Unit 9B), study year 2022
- Manokotak (Unit 17C), study year 2023
- False Pass and Nelson Lagoon (Unit 10), study year 2023



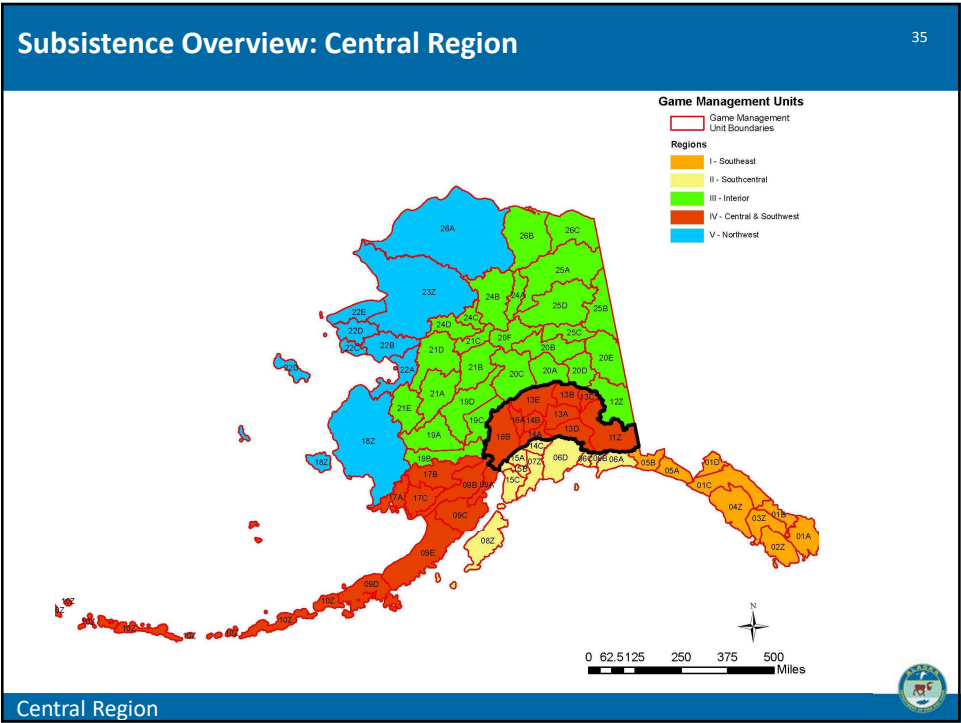
Upcoming and proposed comprehensive surveys

- Chignik, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Perryville (Unit 9E)
 - study year 2024
- Newhalen, Iliamna, Pedro Bay (proposed)

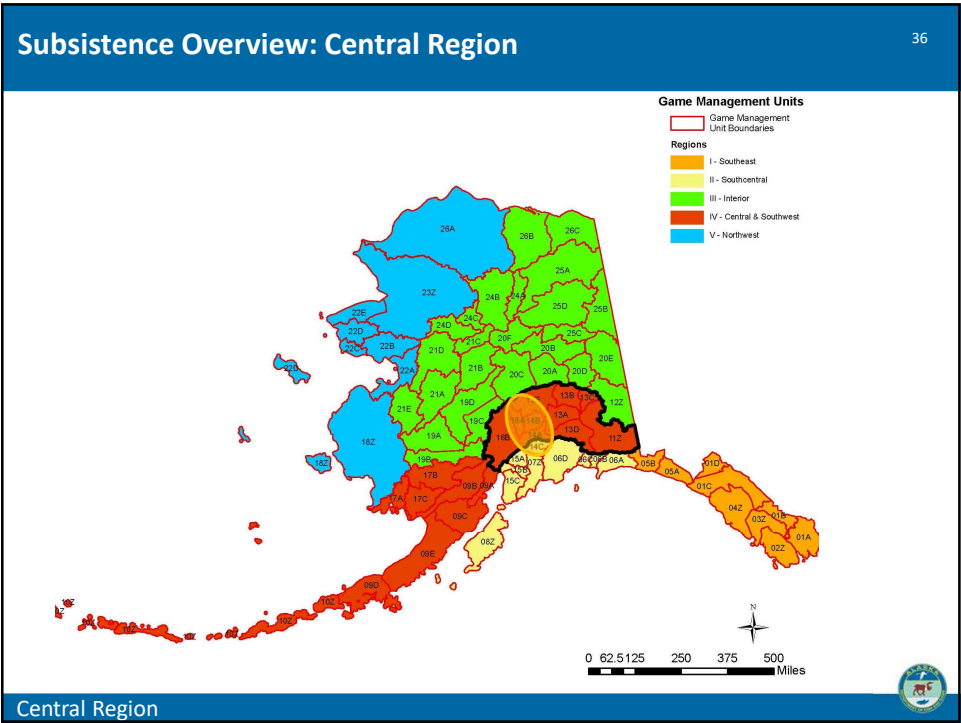
Southwest Region



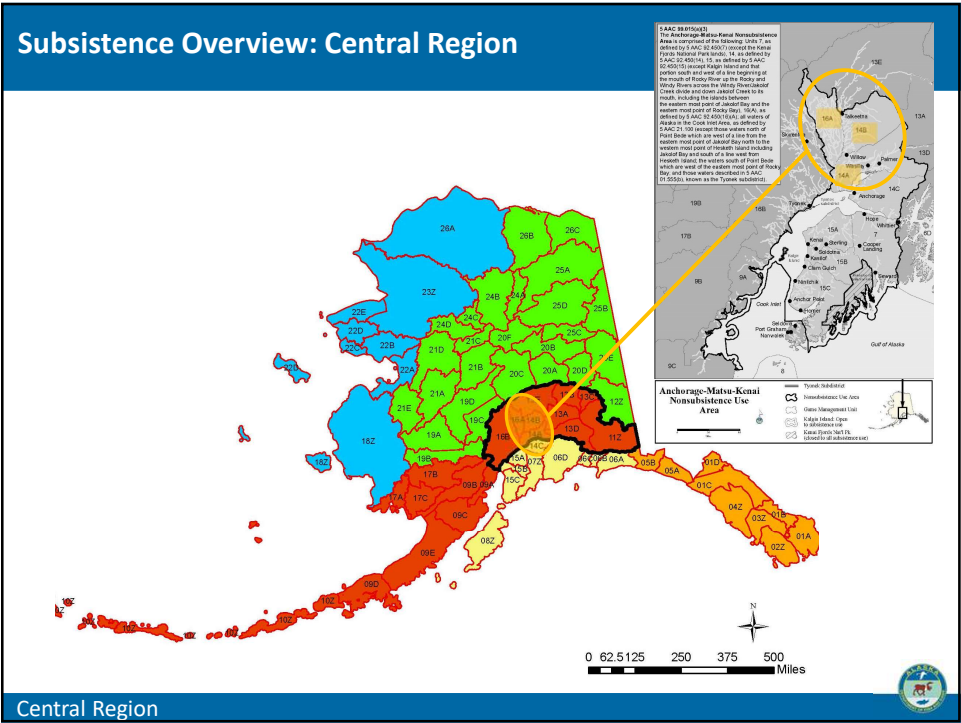
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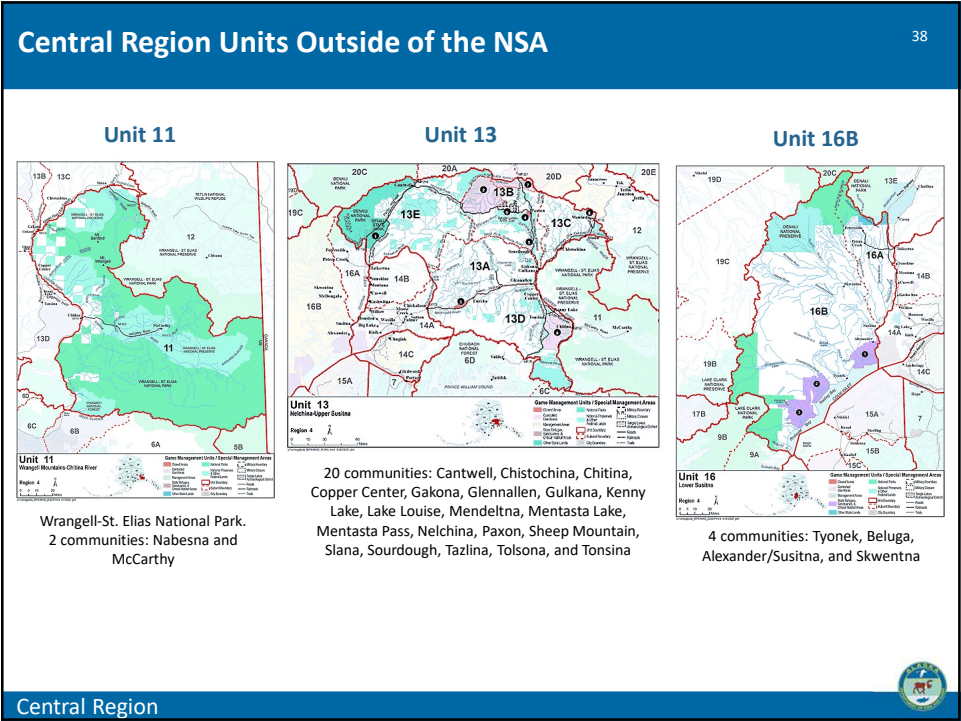
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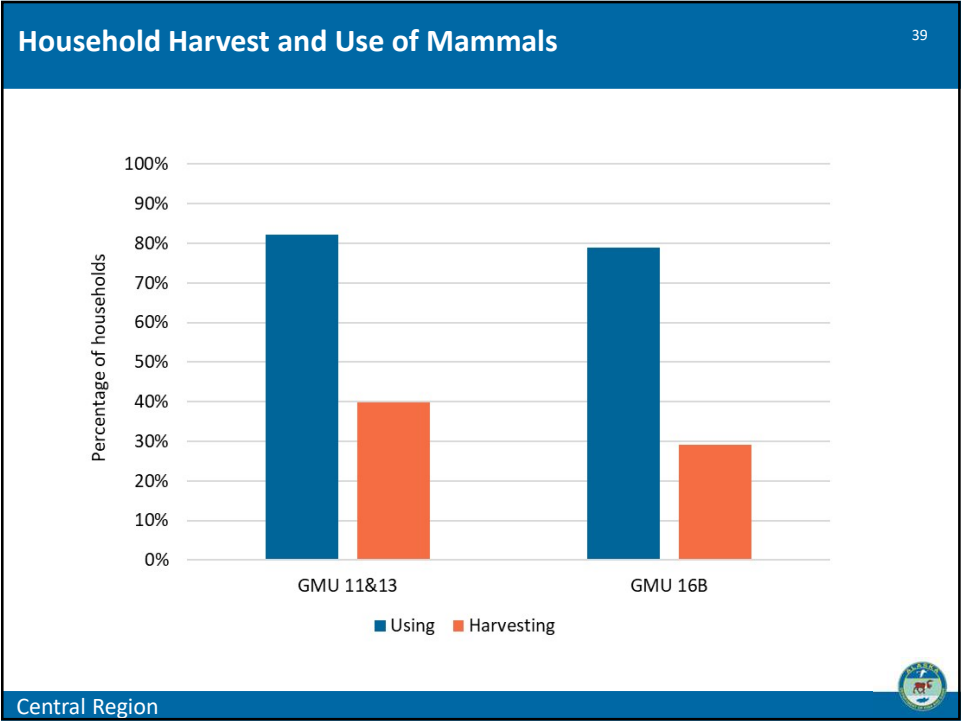
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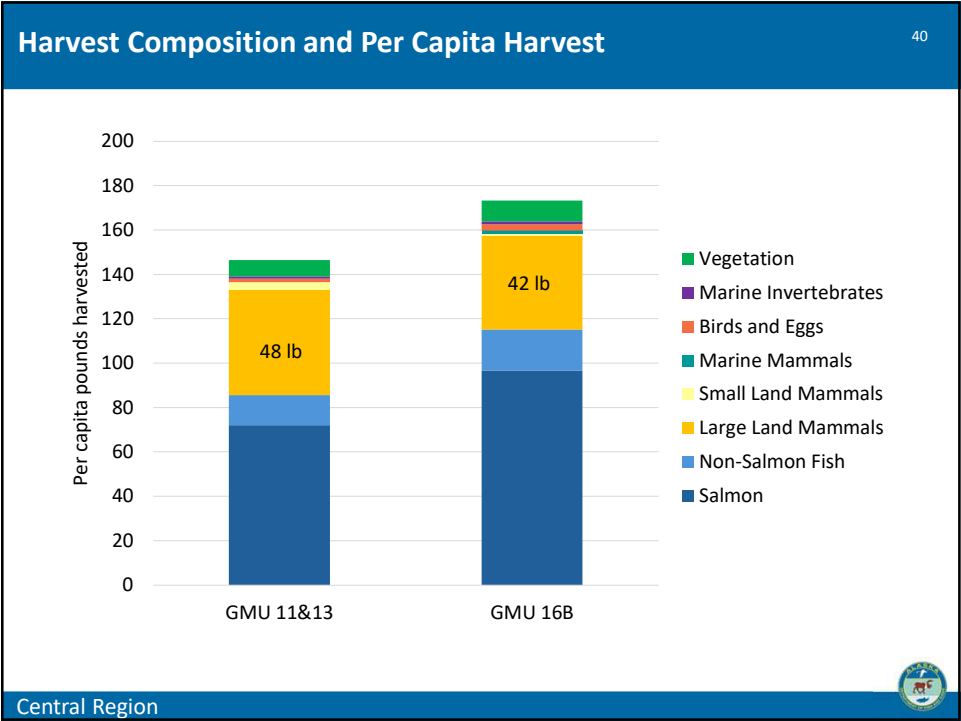
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Units 11 and 13 Ethnographic Overview


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- Traditional home of the Ahtna Athabascan
- Salmon, moose, caribou, and freshwater fish used in large quantities
- Caribou: snares, spears, and bow and arrow
- Moose: snares or in game fences; hunted throughout winter
- Skilled hunters traditionally take several moose or caribou for the community
- Preservation: drying, smoking, canning, freezing
- Knowledge passed through familial relationships
- Communal pattern of use identified for Unit 13



Lena Charlie cleans a moose hide, Batzulnetas. Credit: NPS.


Central Region



Unit 16B Ethnographic Overview

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- Traditional territory of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina Athabascans
- Primary species: salmon, moose, caribou, brown bears and black bears
- Traditional preference for winter moose
- Widespread sharing of moose including meat, internal organs, nose, and tongue
- Kinship ties structures harvests and processing
- Different hunter characteristics based on different geographic areas



Yentna River Moose Hunt, 1925.
Courtesy of Alexandra Allowan, Tyonek.

"We need to be able to store our foods without refrigeration, winter is when we need to take a moose for that reason." - Skwentna hunter


Central Region




Caribou C&T Findings

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Caribou Herd	Finding	ANS
Mentasta (Unit 11)	Positive	No finding yet
Nelchina (Units 12 and 13)	Positive	600 – 1,000
Big River, Rainy Pass (Unit 16(B), 19(B – D))	Positive	50 – 70



Central Region




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Caribou C&T Findings


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Caribou Herd	Finding	ANS
Mentasta (Unit 11)	Positive	No finding yet
Nelchina (Units 12 and 13)	Positive	600 – 1,000
Big River, Rainy Pass (Unit 16(B), 19(B – D))	Positive	50 – 70

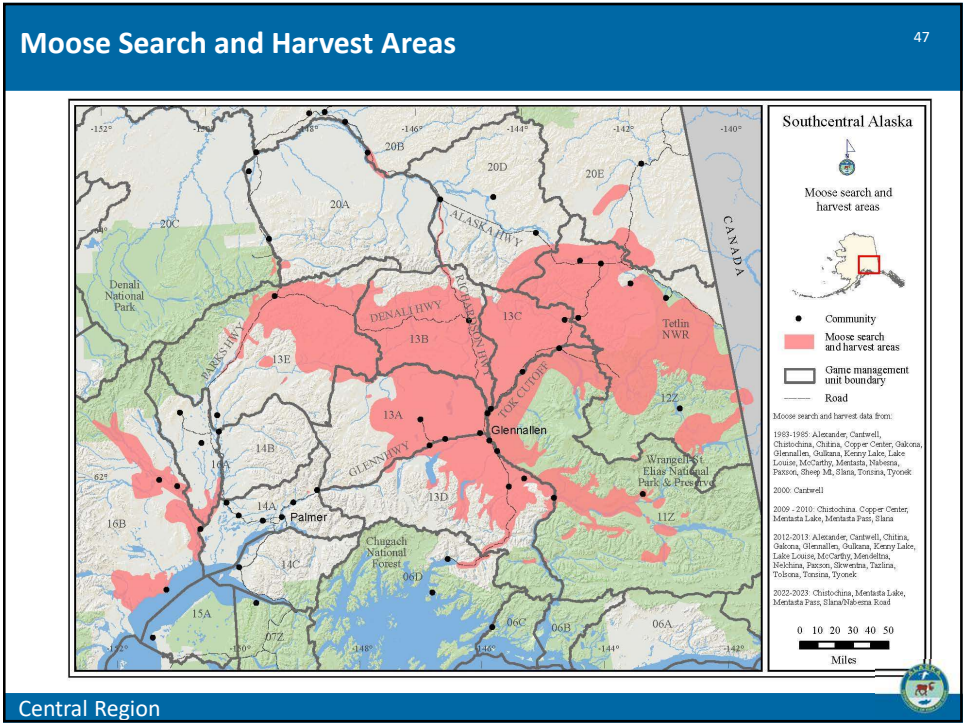


*Currently no harvestable surplus of caribou in Unit 13

Central Region

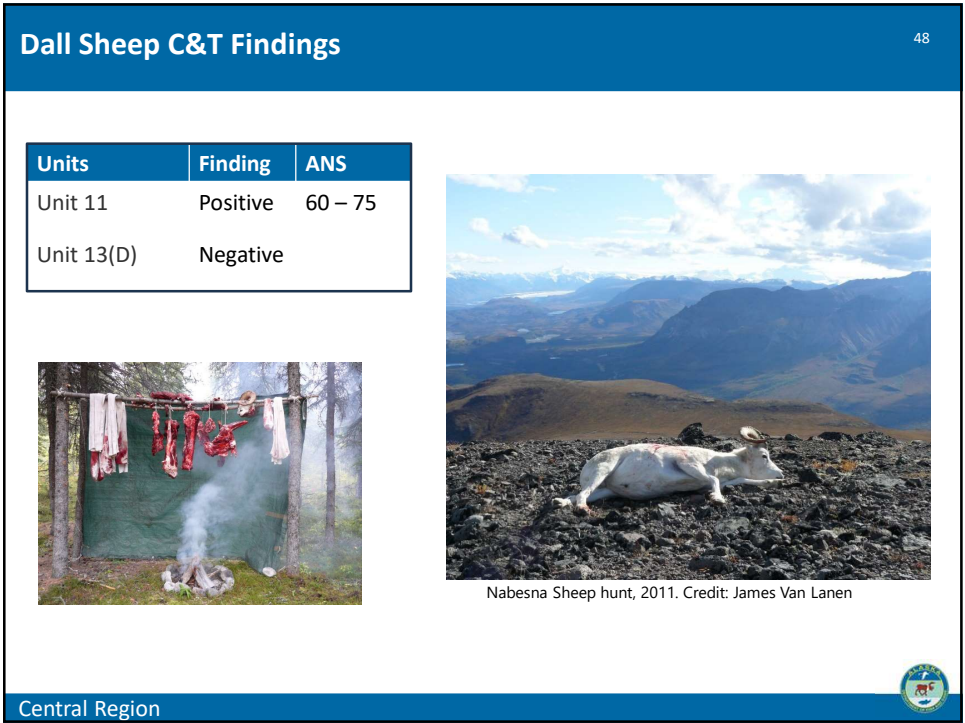


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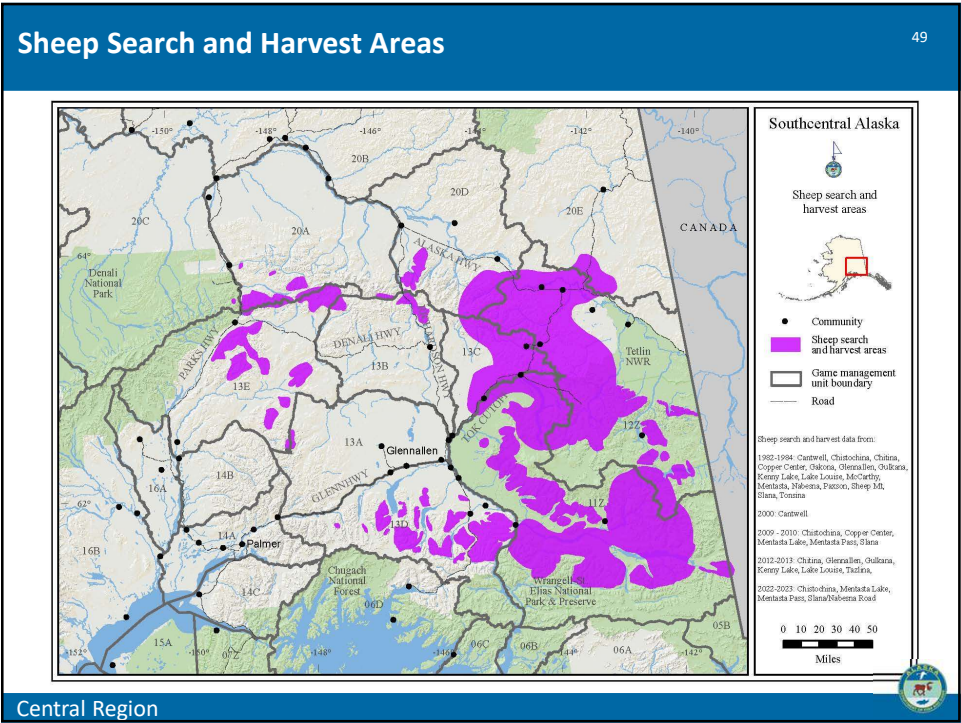
Central Region

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Central Region

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Other C&T Findings

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Species	Unit	Finding	ANS
Bison	11	Negative	-
Black bear	11 and 13	Positive	20 – 50
	16(B)	Positive	15 – 40
Brown bear	11; 13; 16(B)	Negative	-
Goat	11; 13(D)	Negative	-
Wolves	11	Positive	5 – 10
	13	Positive	8 – 24
	16B	Positive	0 – 5

Central Region

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Other C&T Findings Continued				51
Species	Unit	Finding	ANS	
Grouse	11, 13, and 16 outside NSA	Positive	No finding yet	
Ptarmigan	9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 – 26 outside NSAs	Positive	No finding yet	
Migratory game birds	All units w/harvestable surplus	Positive	No finding yet	
Snowshoe hare	11, 13, and 16 outside NSA	Positive	No finding yet	
Furbearers	All units w/ harvestable surplus	Positive	90% harvestable portion	
Central Region				

Recent Research in the Southcentral Region

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Recently completed comprehensive subsistence harvest surveys

- Mentasta Lake, Mentasta Pass, and Chistochina (Units 11 and 13), study year 2022
- Slana/Nabesna Road (Units 11 and 13), study year 2023

- Port Lions and Ouzinkie (Unit 8), study year 2022
- Port Graham (Unit 15C), study year 2023
- Port Graham Moose TEK Project

Upcoming and proposed research

- Tyonek salmon permit collection
- Kodiak wild food resiliency project
- Cordova comprehensives (Unit 6) (proposed)



A group of approximately ten people, mostly women, are standing in a snowy field. They are dressed in winter attire, including coats, hats, and boots. The background shows a line of evergreen trees under a cloudy sky.

Photo: Project team in 2023 with members from ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, NPS Alaska Regional Subsistence Program, and the Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office, in Mentasta Lake.

Contact Us

The logo for the Southcentral Region, featuring a circular emblem with a mountain, a river, and a sun, surrounded by the text "Southcentral Region" and "Alaska Department of Fish & Game".

Contact Us

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Community Subsistence Harvest Information System
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/>


Division Technical Paper Series
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications>

Thank you to all the residents who have participated in this research!



Local Research Assistant training, Slana, 2024

Contact Us



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