


CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE WORKSHEET

Black Bear

Unit 9

Alaska Board of Game
Central – Southwest Meeting
January 10-17, 2025
Wasilla, AK

Division of Subsistence
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
RC 4 Tab 2.2



BACKGROUND

2

State subsistence law

- requires C&T findings

Joint Board of Fisheries and Game


- the “eight criteria”

Proposals 2 & 3

- black bear hunting in Units 9, 11, 14B, 14C, 16, and 17

Unit 9 C&T History

- worksheet prepared for black bear in Units 17 and 9AB in 1990
- worksheet updated for 1991, 1993, and 1994 meetings
- no action taken on Unit 9 black bears
- currently, no finding for black bears; positive finding for brown bears





3

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

4


- **Ethnographic accounts**
 - *Nuvendaltin Quht'ana: the people of Nondalton*. Ellanna and Balluta 1992
 - *The ethnography of the Tanaina*. Osgood 1937
 - *Harvests and uses of caribou, moose, bears, and Dall sheep by communities of Game Management units 9B and 17, western Bristol Bay, Alaska 2001-2002*. Holen et al. 2005
 - *Dena'ina Etnena: a celebration, voices of the Dena'ina*. Evanoff 2010
- **Division household harvest surveys 1980s-2020s**
- **Harvest ticket data 2009-2023**

4

CRITERION 1: LENGTH AND CONSISTENCY OF USE

5

- Documented historical harvest and use
 - Ethnographic accounts
 - Interviews with elders
- Dena’ina Athabascan people
 - Hunted black and brown bear for food and raw materials
- Prestigious harvesting activity




5

CRITERION 1: LENGTH AND CONSISTENCY OF USE

6

Unit	Community	Study Year	Estimated percentage of households					Estimated harvest
			Using	Trying	Harvesting	Giving	Receiving	Total (ind)
9B	Iliamna	1991	22%	4%	4%	9%	17%	1
		2001	10%	10%	5%	5%	10%	1
		2004	8%	8%	0%	8%	8%	0
	Kokhanok	1992	6%	6%	3%	0%	3%	2
		2005	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0
		2022	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0
	Levelock	2001	12%	24%	0%	0%	12%	0
		2005	14%	7%	7%	7%	7%	1
	Newhalen	1991	12%	8%	8%	8%	4%	2
		2001	21%	12%	6%	6%	15%	3
		2004	16%	12%	8%	8%	8%	2




6

CRITERION 1: LENGTH AND CONSISTENCY OF USE


7

Unit	Community	Study Year	Estimated percentage of households					Estimated harvest
			Using	Trying	Harvesting	Giving	Receiving	Total (ind)
9B	Nondalton	1973			24%			10
		1981			32%			17
		1983		29%	24%		0%	18
		2001	61%	52%	37%	36%	39%	18
		2004	42%	26%	13%	13%	34%	5
		2021	28%	14%	10%	14%	17%	4
	Pedro Bay	1982		6%	0%		6%	0
		2001	5%	5%	0%	5%	5%	0
		2004	6%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0
	Port Alsworth	1983		8%	0%		0%	0
		2001	15%	25%	5%	5%	10%	1
		2004	27%	27%	5%	9%	18%	1
		2021	11%	9%	3%	6%	11%	
9D	King Cove	2016	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0
9E	Port Heiden	2016	3%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0

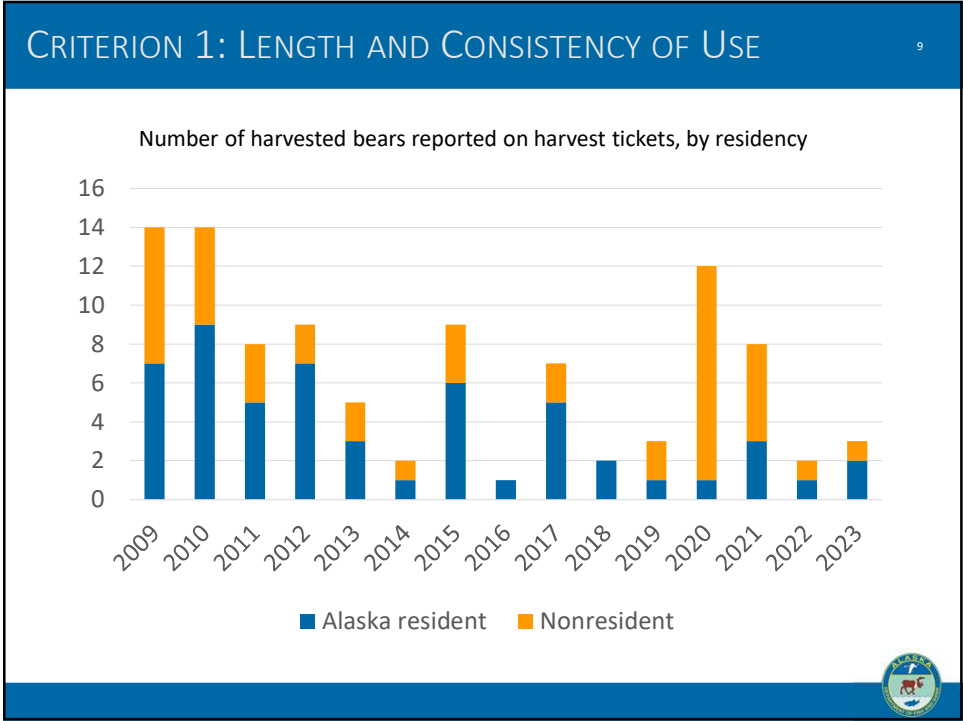


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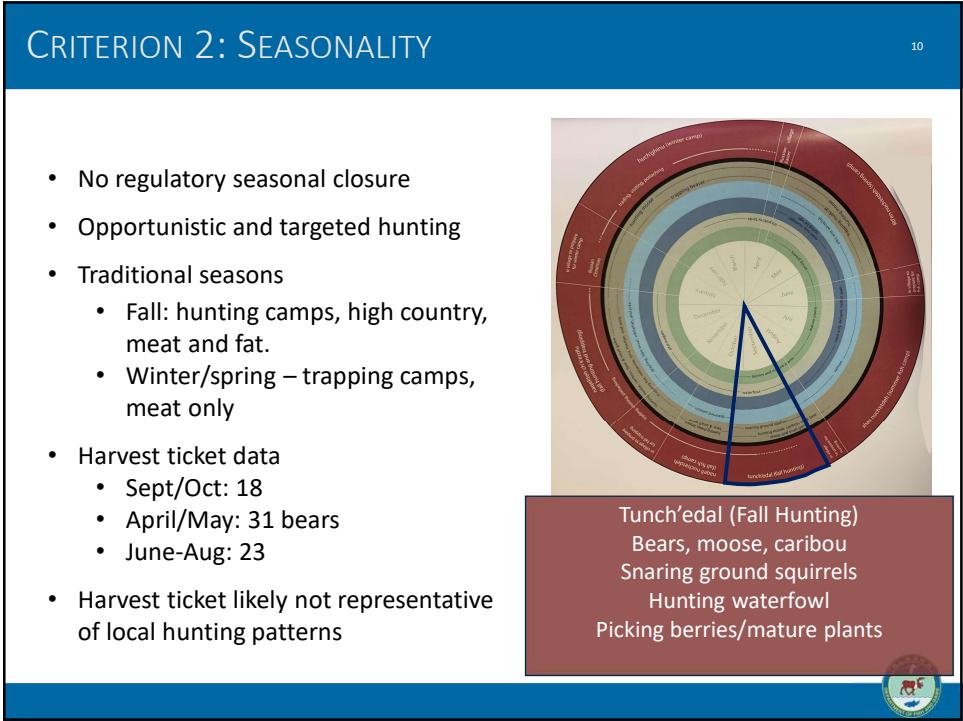
CRITERION 1: LENGTH AND CONSISTENCY OF USE							
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Year	9A	9B	9C	9D	9E	9Z	GMU 9 Overall
2009	6	7	1	0	0	0	14
2010	4	10	0	0	0	0	14
2011	2	6	0	0	0	0	8
2012	6	3	0	0	0	0	9
2013	4	0	1	0	0	0	5
2014	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
2015	6	3	0	0	0	0	9
2016	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2017	6	1	0	0	0	0	7
2018	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
2019	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
2020	4	7	0	0	0	1	12
2021	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
2022	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
2023	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
10-year average	3.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	4.9
All-years average	3.7	2.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	6.6



8



9



10

CRITERION 3: MEANS AND METHODS OF HARVEST

11

• Traditionally

• Fall camps – groups of relatives, based around brothers

• Spears

• From their dens

• With the use of dogs

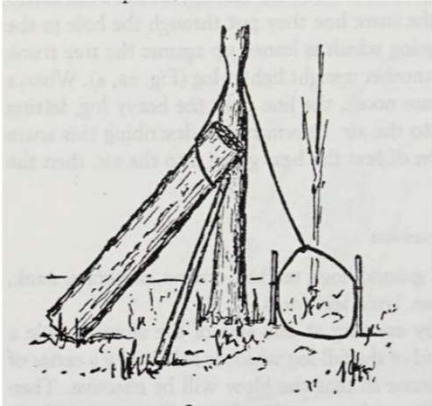
• Snares

• Deadfalls

• Currently


• firearms

• boats, snowmachines, 4-wheelers, and hiking to access bear hunting locations.



Traditional Dena'ina bear snare.

Source Osgood 1937



CRITERION 4: GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

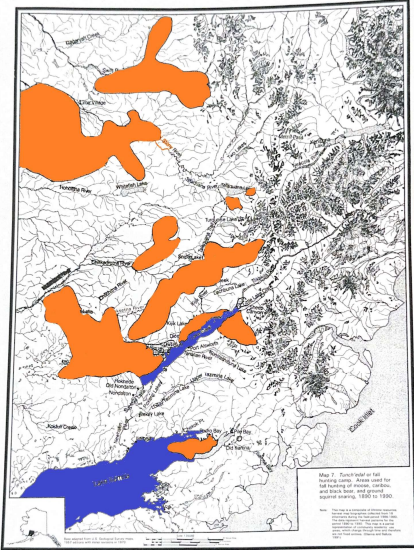
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1890-1990

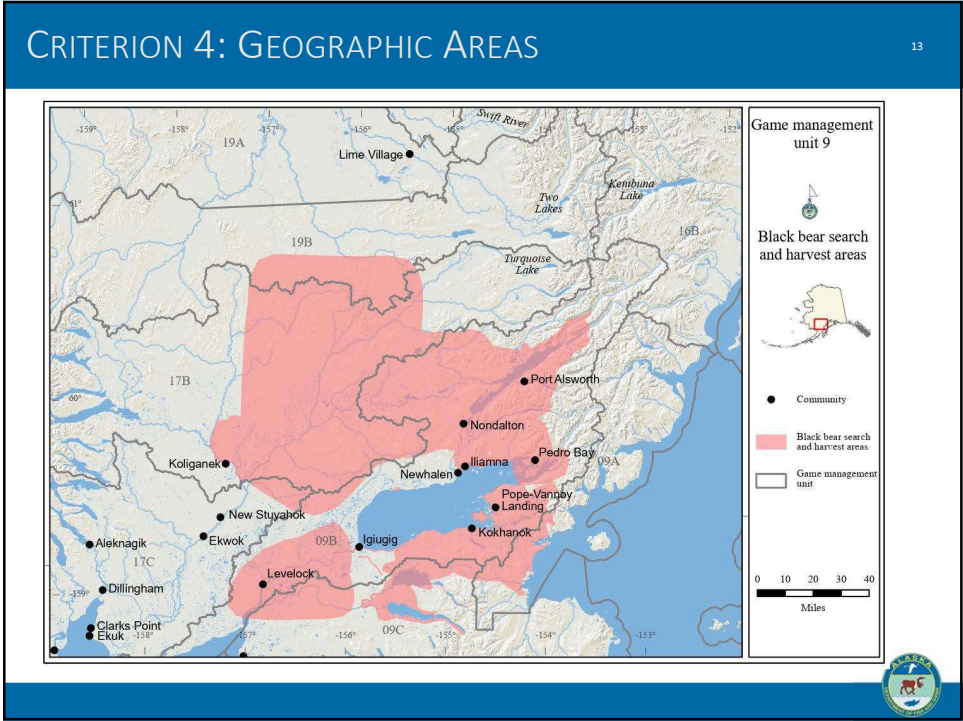
(Ellanna and Balluta 1992)

Areas used for fall hunting of moose, caribou, and black bear, and ground squirrel snaring

• GMUs 9B, 17B, 19







13

CRITERION 5: MEANS OF HANDLING, PREPARING, PRESERVING, AND STORING

14

• **Traditionally**

• Most of bear used

• Eaten fresh

• Dried

• Smoked

• Gendered division of labor

• Intestines used for raincoats, windows

• Stomach used for storage, as floats

• **Contemporary**

• Frozen

• Eaten fresh

• **Important role of bear fat**

• Highly valued

• Rendered fat used as condiment

14

7

CRITERION 6: INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, VALUES, AND LORE

15

• Hunting camps

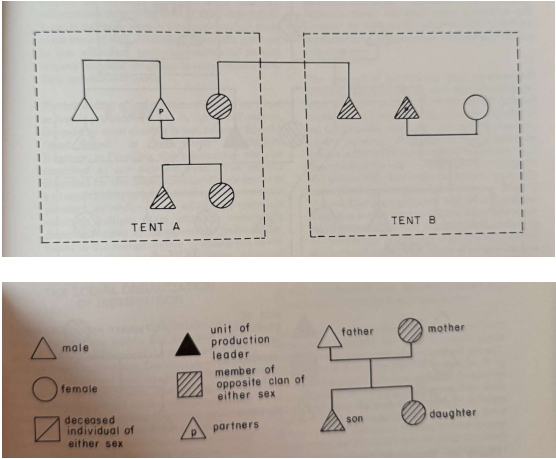
• multigenerational

• Long-term residents


• Kinship ties

• Hunting parties

• Distribution networks



Normative composition of an inland Dena'ina fall hunting camp, *Source* Ellanna and Balluta 1992



15

CRITERION 7: DISTRIBUTION AND EXCHANGE

16

• Extensive sharing networks

• Generalized reciprocity – “what comes around goes around”

• Between households within a community

• Between communities

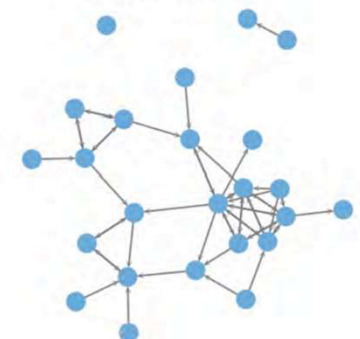
• Sharing of bear meat and fat

• Relatively few hunters


• 1% to 40% of households received during study years

• Variability in sharing rates

• Not correlated with harvest amount



Generic sharing network visualization



16

8

CRITERION 8: DIVERSITY OF RESOURCES IN AN AREA

17

Large and diverse harvests

- Salmon and other fish
- Shellfish
- Land and marine mammals
- Birds
- Wild plants

Per capita harvests, Unit 9

- Ranged from 315 lb in Port Alsworth and 442 lb in Egegik to 2,240 lb in Ivanof Bay and 2,794 lb in Newhalen

Most recent study year (2021)

- Nondalton: > 63 species harvested; 298 lb per capita
- Port Alsworth: > 55 species harvested; 116 lb per capita

Nondalton 2021 harvest composition

Category	Percentage
Salmon	62%
Large land mammals	18%
Nonsalmon fish	8%
Vegetation	6%
Birds and eggs	3%
Small land mammals	3%
Marine invertebrates	<1%

17

QUESTIONS?

18