

# Game Management Unit 8

## Kodiak Archipelago

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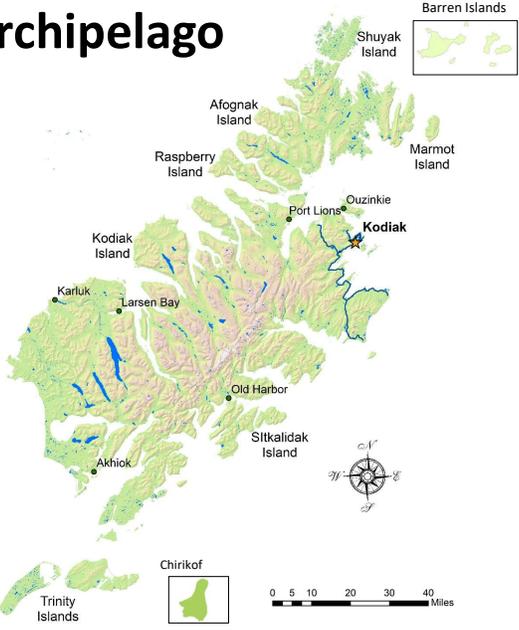




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## GMU 8 – Kodiak Archipelago

- 5,000 miles<sup>2</sup>
- Afognak, Raspberry, Kodiak, Sitkalidak, Trinity, Chirikof et al.
- 13,000 residents
- 6 villages on island
- Mountainous, high-alpine terrain (north and center)
- Tundra (southern portions)



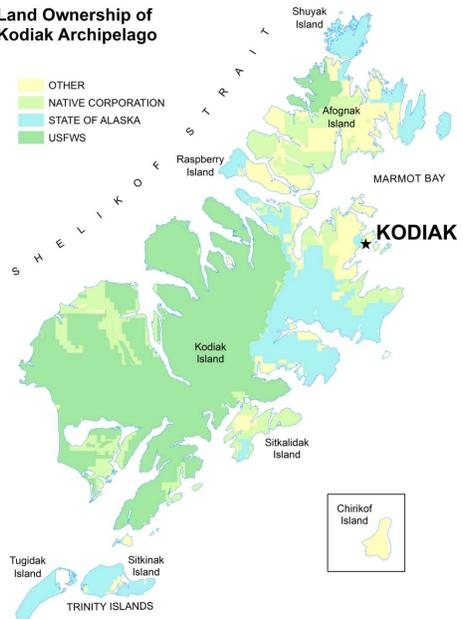
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# GMU 8 – Kodiak Archipelago



**Land Ownership of Kodiak Archipelago**

- OTHER
- NATIVE CORPORATION
- STATE OF ALASKA
- USFWS



- 19% State of Alaska
- 16% Native Corporation
- 52% KNWR
- 13% Other

Credit: Nate Svoboda

Map prepared by Kodiak Island Borough 12/15/2014. Map data may not reflect current conditions.

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# Kodiak Archipelago

Credit: Nate Svoboda

- **Brown bear**  
(3,000 – 3,500)
- **Mountain goats**  
(3,000 – 3,500)
- **Caribou**  
(250 – 300)
- **Roosevelt elk**  
(1,000 – 1,200)
- **Sitka black-tailed deer**  
(???????)



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## Sitka Black-tailed Deer

**HISTORICAL:**

- 1925 – 1934; 3 transplants, 25 deer (Sitka, POW, Petersburg)
- Important subsistence species; primary mammalian protein
- Winter severity primary factor impacting mortality
- (+) Positive C&T finding; ANS determined at 3,600 – 4,100

**CURRENT STATUS:**

- Significant decline winter 2019
- Recover relatively quickly; currently increasing

**SEASON:**

- Resident: Aug. 1 – Dec. 31; bag limit = 1 buck to 3 deer
- Nonresident: Aug. 1 – Dec. 31; bag limit = 1 buck
- Federal season Aug. 1 – Jan. 31; bag limit = 4 deer (buck only Aug. 1 – Sep. 30)

**ISSUES:**

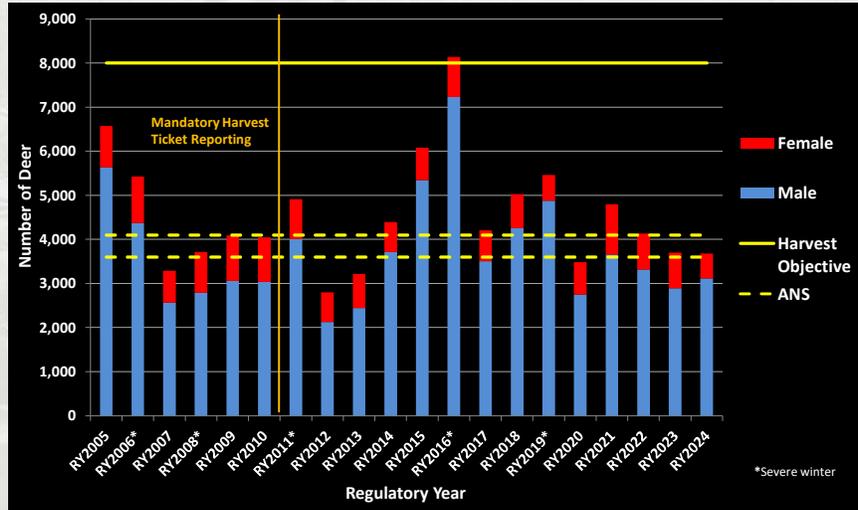
- Difficulty obtaining robust population estimate
- Public concerns regarding increase in transporters and off-island hunters
- 11 deer proposals; Proposals 198 – 208

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## Sitka Black-tailed Deer – Harvest

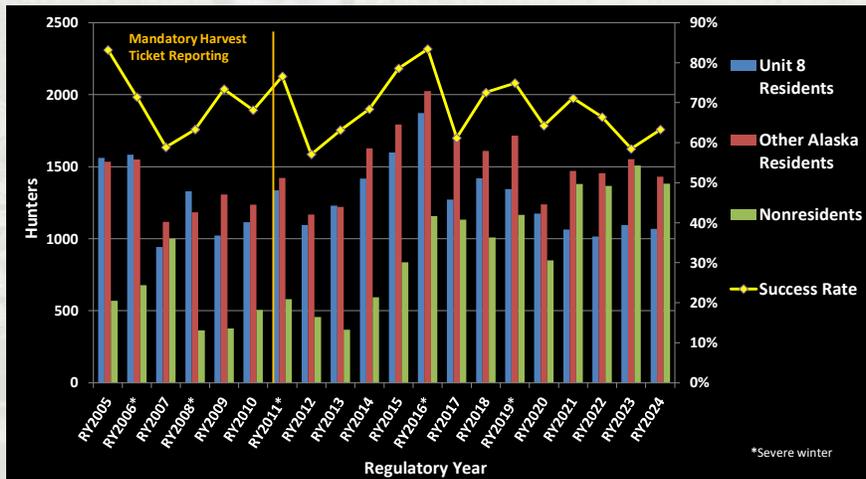
**HARVEST:** (10-year avg.) 4,870 deer/year; 83% male harvest



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## Sitka Black-tailed Deer – Hunt Success

**HUNTER SUCCESS:** (10-yr avg.) 4,080 hunters/yr, 69% overall success



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## Roosevelt elk

**HISTORICAL:**

- 1928; 8 calves (3 M, 5 F) from Hoh Valley, WA.
- Expanded rapidly: 1933 = 30+; 1948 = 200+; 1961 = 1,100
- 1951 observed on Raspberry Island
- (-) Negative C&T finding

**CURRENT STATUS:**

- Stable at ~1,200 elk in 8 herds; occupy Afognak and Raspberry
- Northernmost elk population in N. America; only Roosevelt elk in AK

**SEASON:**

- Sep. 25 – Nov. 30; bag limit 1
- 9 drawing hunts; 4 registration hunt
- Federal season Sep. 15 – Nov. 30

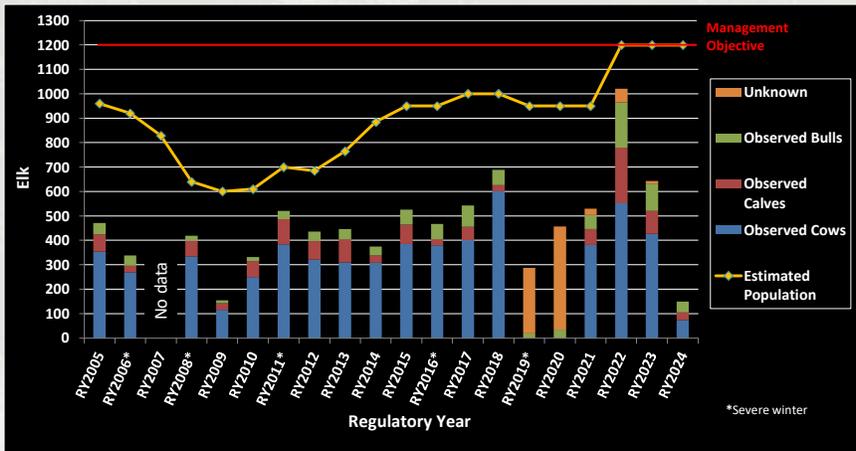
**ISSUES:**

- Feral Rocky Mountain elk impact on genetic integrity of Roosevelt elk
- 11 elk proposals, proposals 209 – 219

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## Roosevelt elk – Population

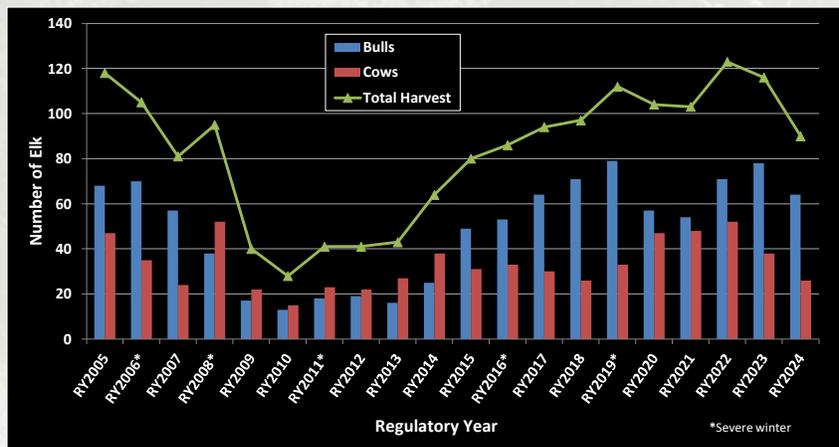
**ESTIMATED POPULATION:** Stable population; Management objective = 1,200; Photo surveys 2022



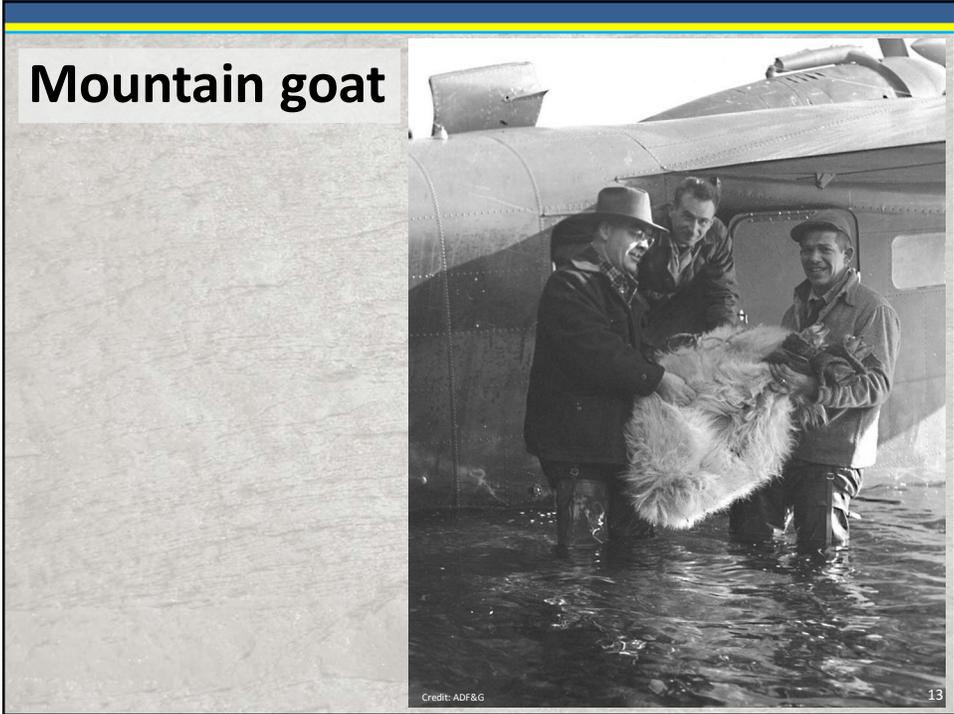
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## Roosevelt elk – Harvest

**HARVEST:** (10-yr avg.) 101 elk/year; 63% bull harvest; ~277 hunters/year; 37% success rate



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# Mountain goat

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# Mountain goat

**HISTORICAL:**

- 1952 – 1953: 11 female, 8 male from Kenai Peninsula
- Expanded rapidly: 22 goats observed in 1962 to 2,947 goats in 2022
- 2013: increased limit in RG480 to 2 goats; 2019: 1 of 2 must be nanny
- (-) Negative C&T finding

**CURRENT STATUS:**

- Stable throughout most of island; Estimate = 3,000 – 3,500
- Occur in nearly all suitable habitats

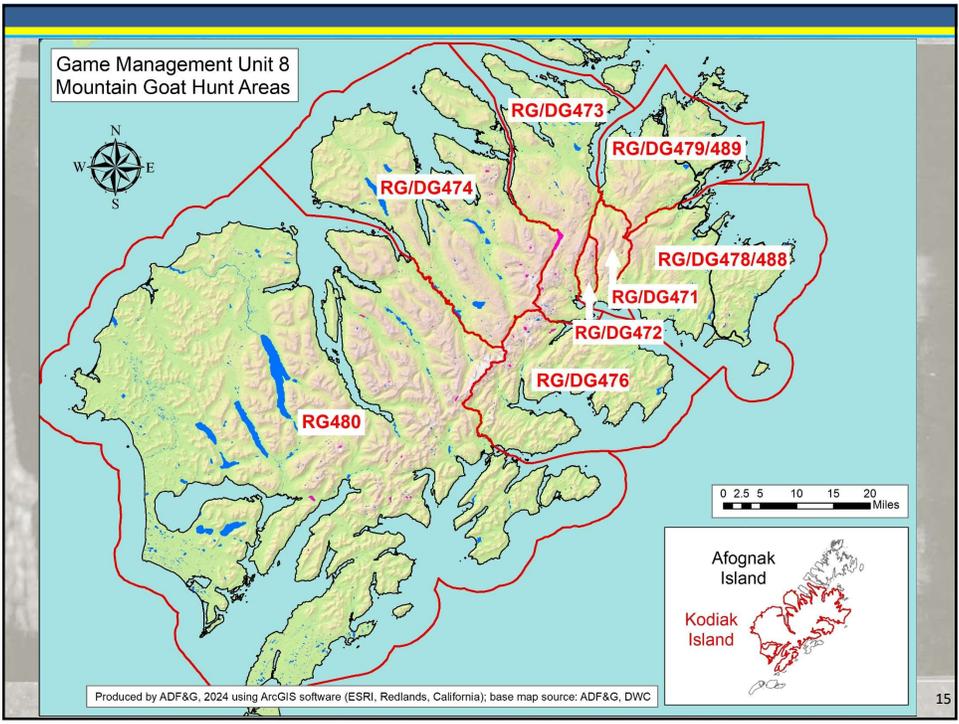
**SEASON:**

- Drawing: Aug. 20 – Oct. 25
- Registration: Aug. 20 – Mar. 31 (RG480)
- Registration: Nov. 1 – Jan. 31 (other areas)
- 8 hunt areas

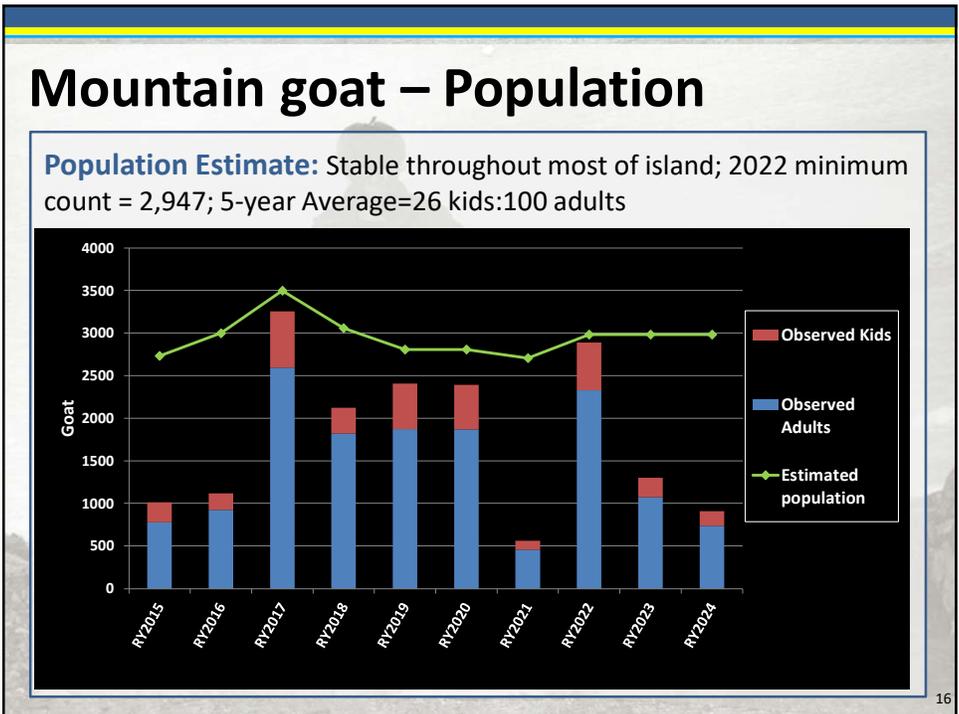
**ISSUES:**

- Lacking information on harvest demographics
- 13 goat proposals; Proposals 220 – 232

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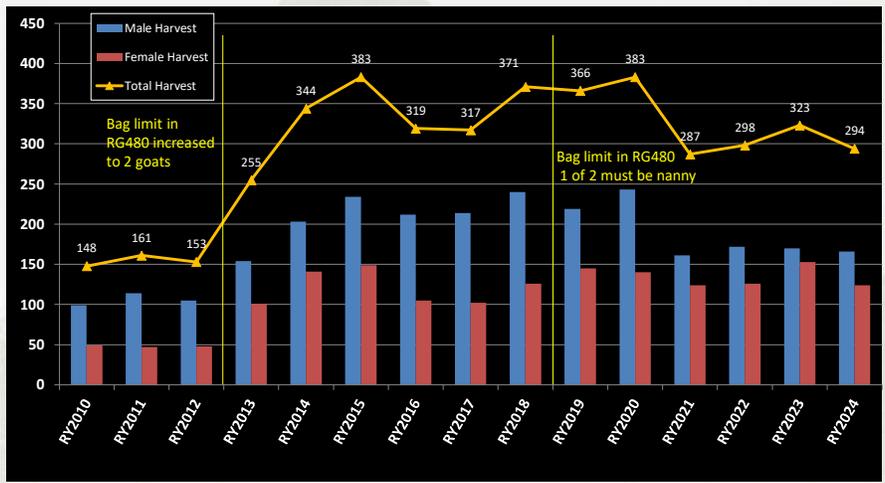
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# Mountain goat – Harvest

**HARVEST:** (10-yr avg.) 334 goats/year; 60% billy harvest; ~47% hunter success



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## Brown bear

### HISTORICAL:

- Kodiak bears isolated for 12,000+ years
- Largest brown bears in the world; attracts thousands of visitors worldwide
- (-) Negative C&T finding

### CURRENT STATUS:

- Stable at ~3,500 bears
- Occur on all major islands of the Archipelago

### SEASON:

- Spring: Apr. 1 – May 15
- Fall: Oct. 25 – Nov. 30
- 31 drawing hunt areas, 1 registration hunt area
- Federal Season: Apr. 1 – May 15; Dec. 1 – Dec. 15 (up to 13 permits)

### ISSUES:

- Urban/village bears; proper waste management; landfill access
- Robust and current population estimate needed
- 6 bear proposals; Proposals 233–238

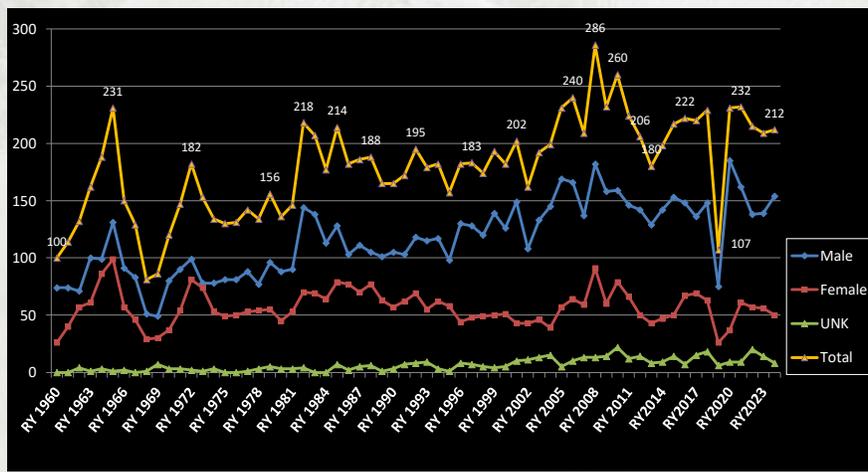
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## Brown bear – Harvest

**HARVEST:** (10-year avg.) 184 bear/year; Range = 88 – 214; 69% males

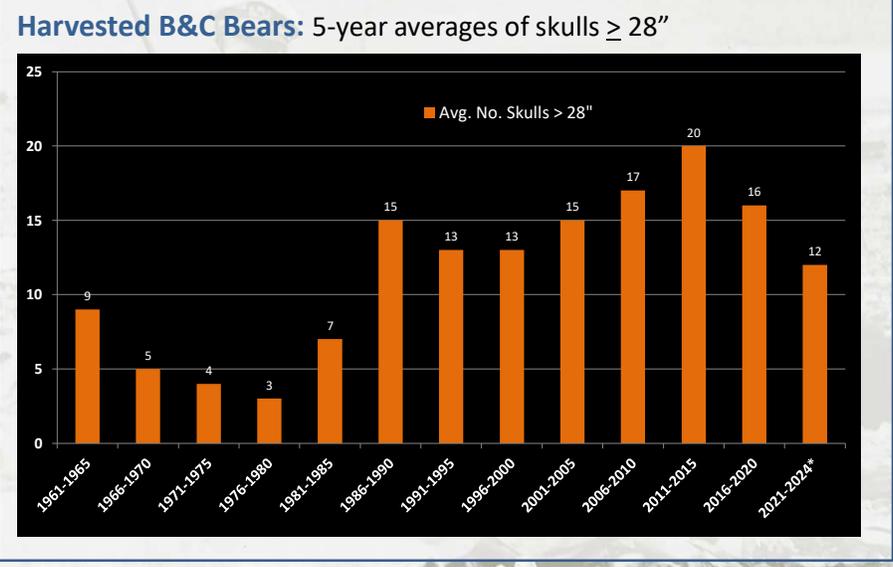
**NON-HUNTING:** (10-year avg.) 25 bear/year; Range = 15 – 40



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# Brown bear – skulls $\geq 28$ "



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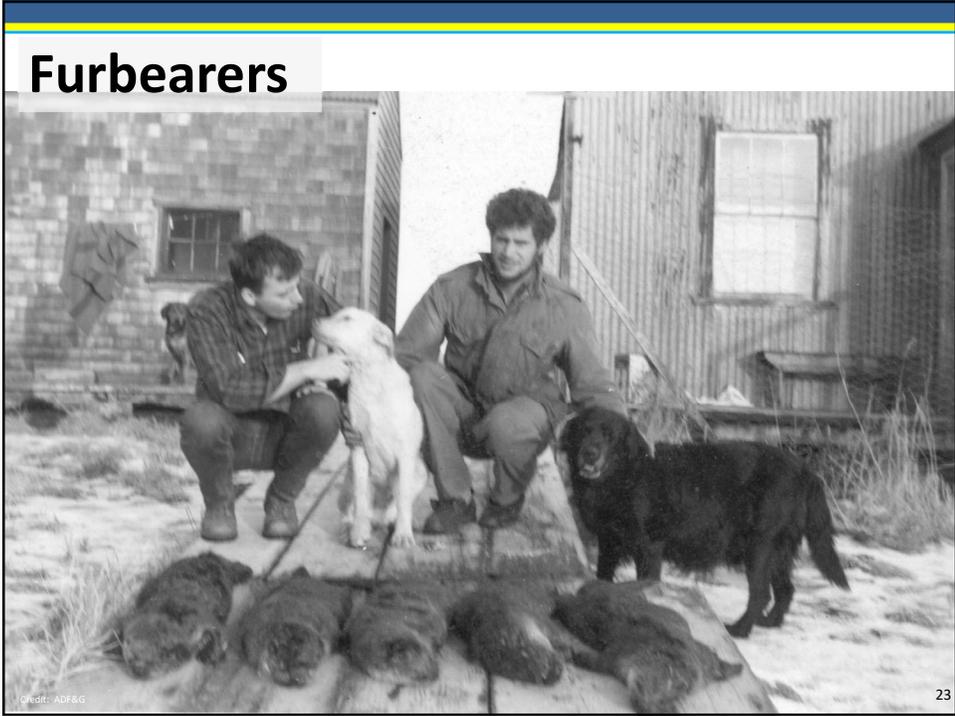
# Brown bear – Public Outreach



- Local schools (Bear re-articulation, Kodiak H.S.– dumpster project; education program)
- Bear Safety Group (AK Waste, USCG, AWT, KPD, State Parks)
- Bear Aware presentations; many groups
- Electric Fence Program



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# Furbearers

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**Furbearers**

**HISTORICAL:**

- 1888: Arctic fox brought to Chirikof
- 1929: 24 beaver to Kodiak; 21 to Raspberry
- 1952: 20 marten (8 M, 12 F) released on Afognak Island
- 1952: 47 red squirrel introduced to Kodiak

**CURRENT STATUS:**

- Beaver, river otter, and red fox populations fluctuate with harvest/prey

**SEASON:**

- Beaver: (+) C&T; Nov. 10 – Apr. 30; limit = 30
- Red fox: (+) C&T; Nov. 10 – Mar. 31; no limit
- River otter: (+) C&T; Nov. 10 – Jan. 31; no limit
- Marten: (+) C&T; Nov. 10 – Jan. 31; no limit

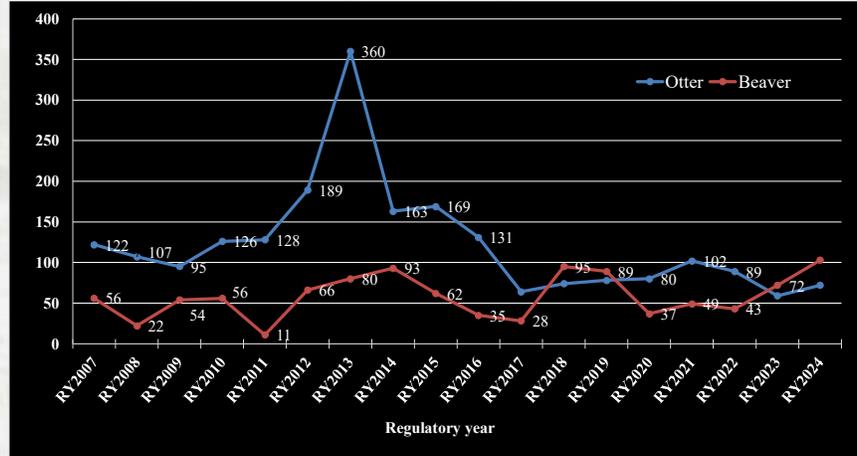
**ISSUES:**

- Public concerns regarding trapping on road system
- Mink increasing on road system and Long Island
- 5 trapping proposals; Proposals 241– 244, 247,

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# Furbearers – Harvest

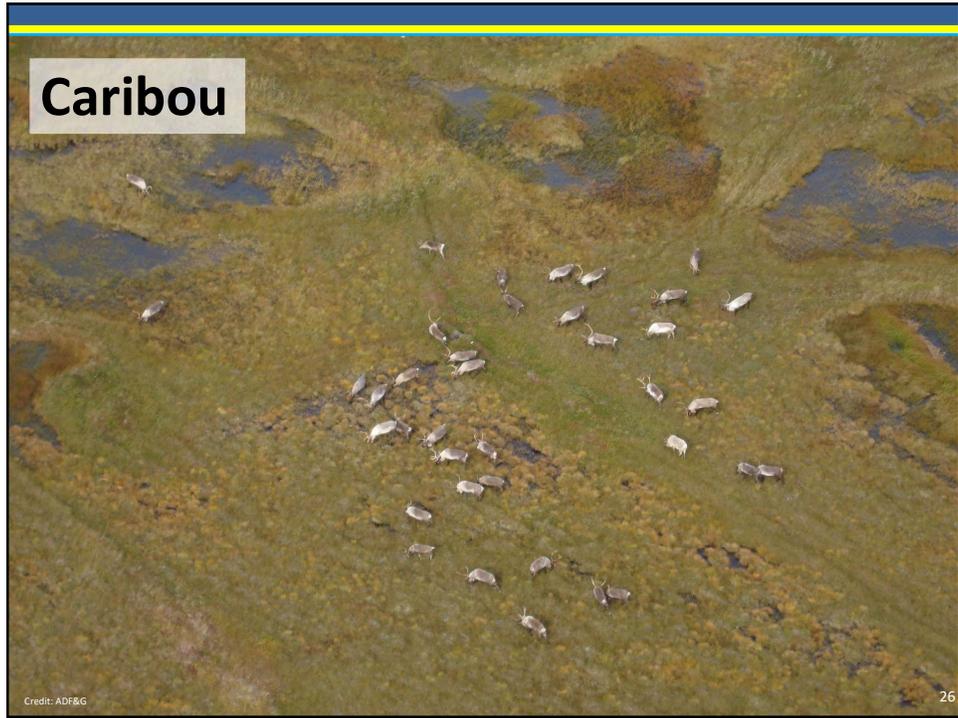
**HARVEST:** 10-yr avg. = 61 beaver/year (Range = 28 – 103); 92 otter/year (Range = 59 – 169); harvest fluctuates with fur prices



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# Caribou



Credit: ADF&G

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# Caribou

## HISTORICAL:

- 1924, 32 brought to Alitak
- Reclassified from feral reindeer to caribou in 2011
- (-) Negative C&T finding

## CURRENT STATUS:

- Increasing at 250–300 individuals
- Occupy southwest Kodiak Island (Ayakulik and Sturgeon River drainages)

## SEASON:

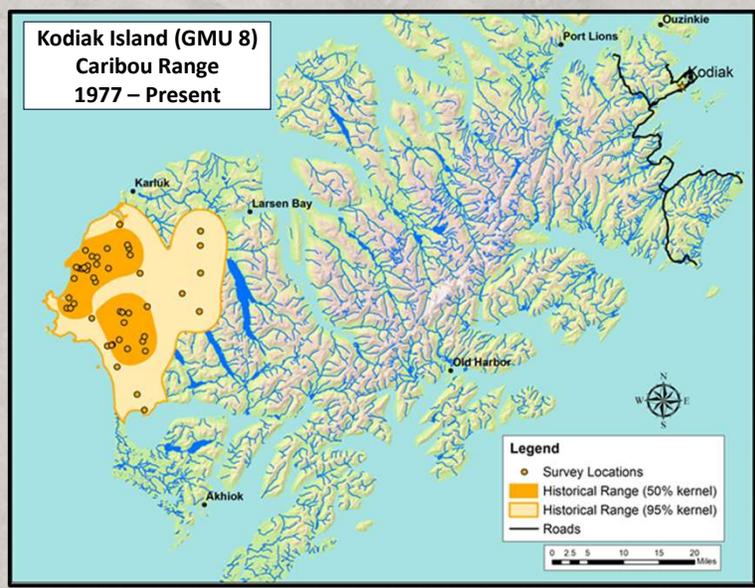
- Aug. 1–Jan. 31; bag limit 1
- Registration starting in RY23, bull only

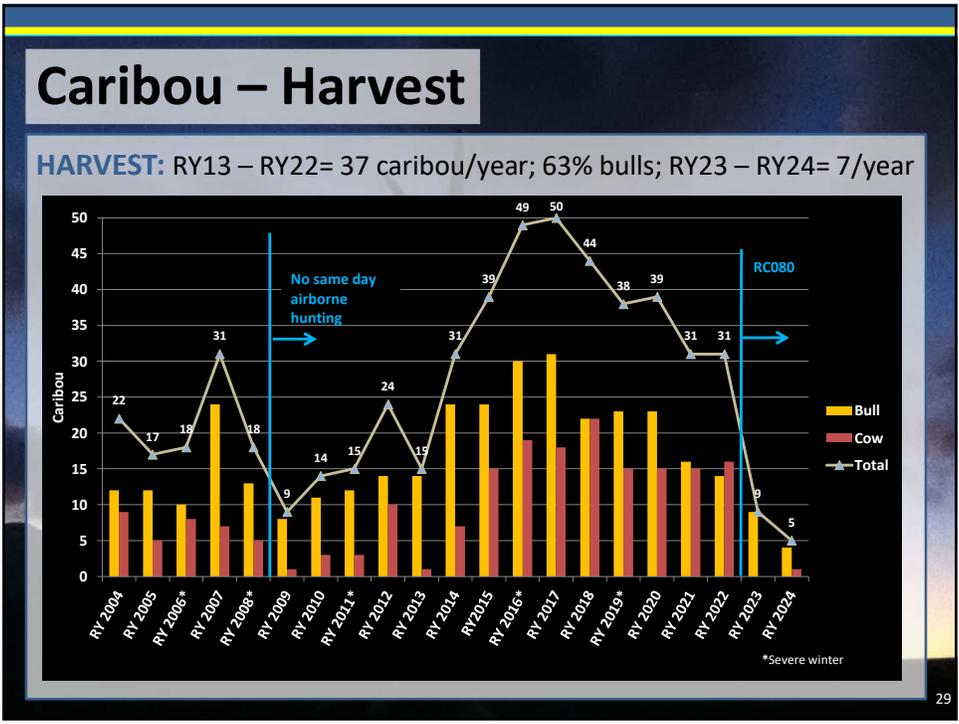


## ISSUES:

- Concern regarding overharvest and poor recruitment
- 0 caribou proposals

# Caribou – Historical Range





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