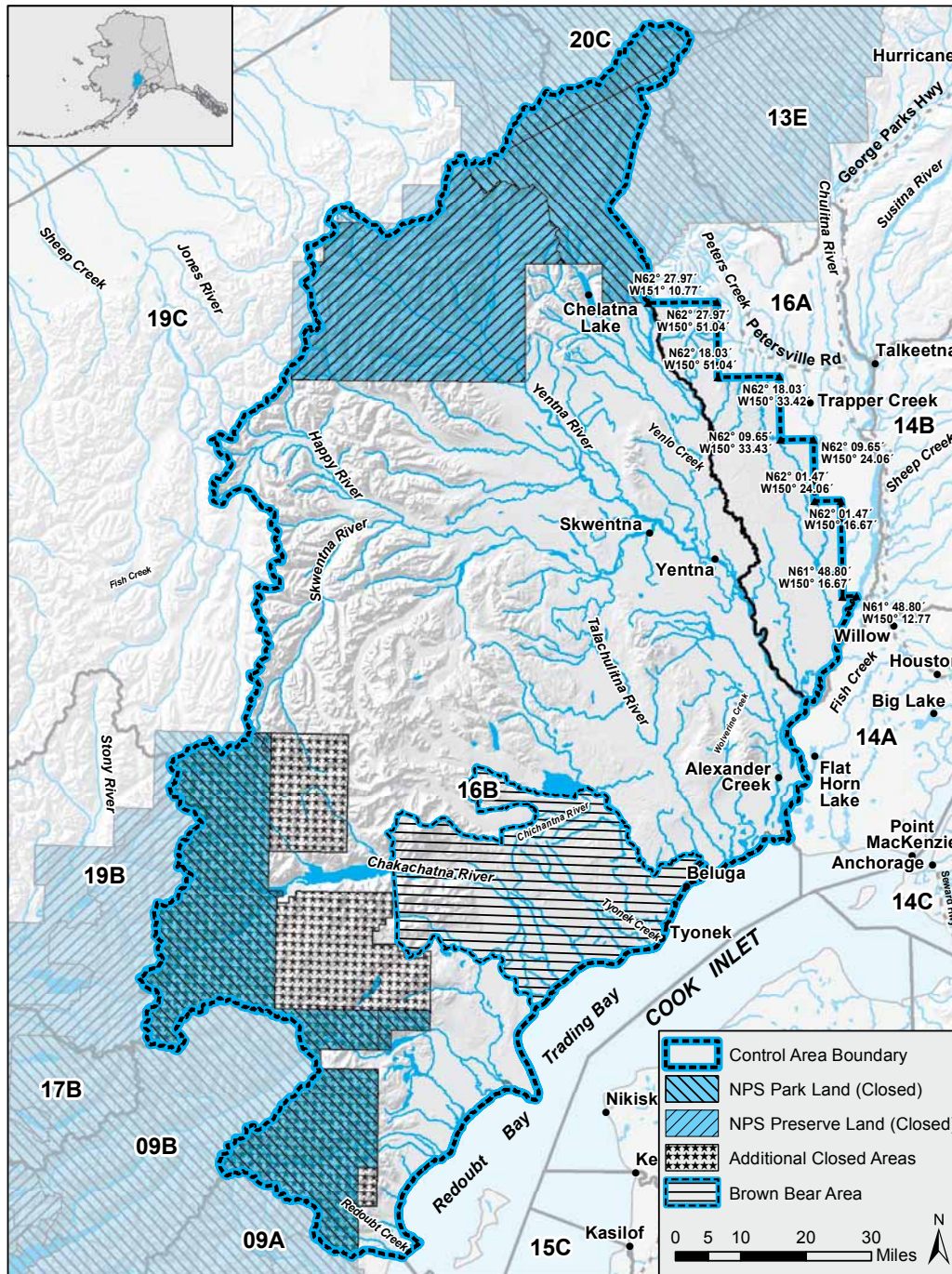


# 2012-2013 Unit 16 Bear Predator Control Program

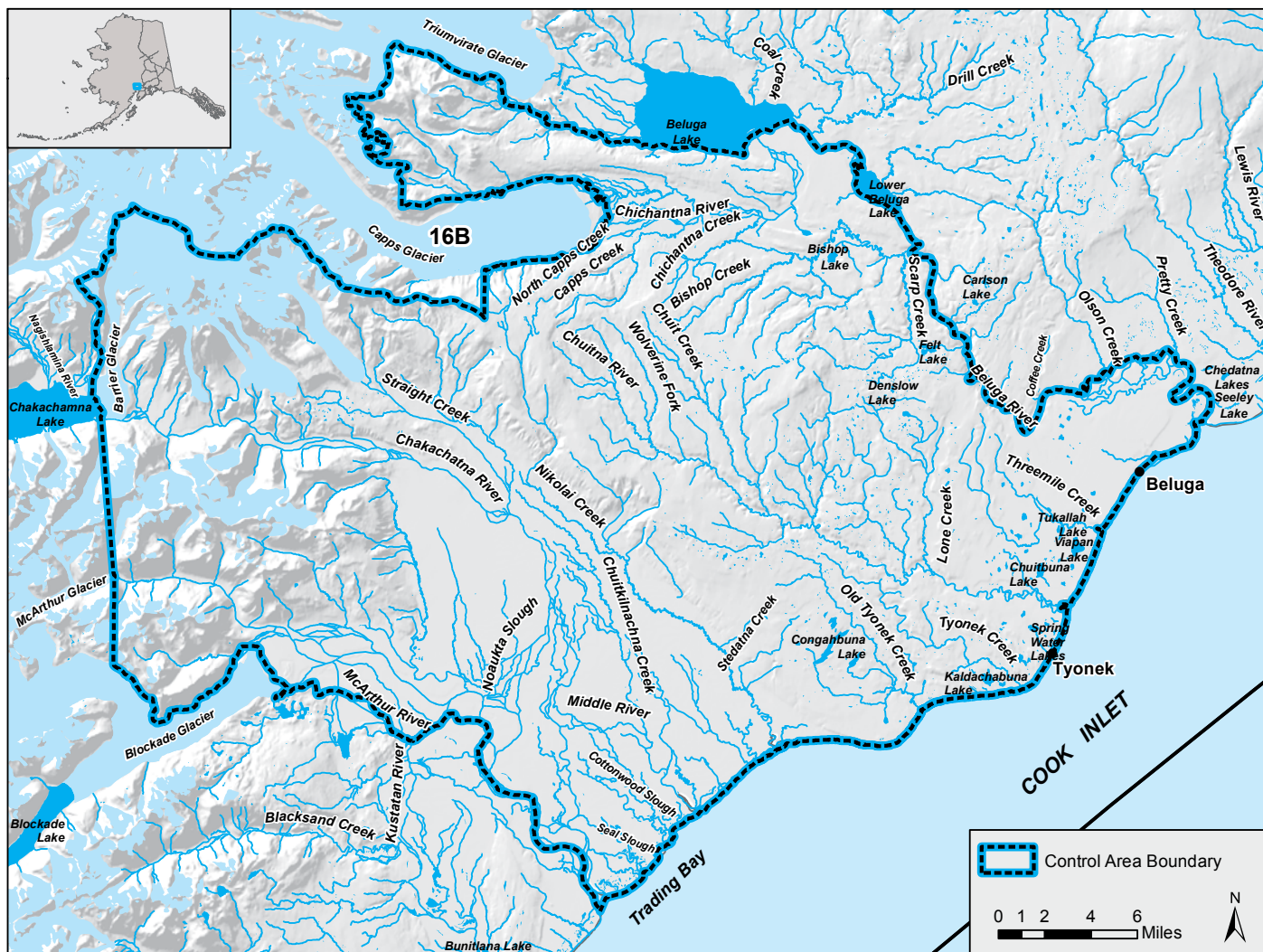
*This supplement describes the bear predator control programs currently underway in Game Management Unit 16. This program is separate from Alaska's hunting programs, and is authorized under 5AAC 92.115 and 92.122. Alaska residents wishing to participate in this control program need to understand how it differs from hunting regulations.*



**Unit 16 black bear control area -** Unit 16B mainland, and that portion of Unit 16A west of a line beginning at the confluence of the Yentna and the Susitna Rivers then northerly along the western bank of the Susitna River to the confluence with the Deshka River then northerly to N 61° 48.80' W 150° 12.77' then east to N 61° 48.80' W 150° 16.67', then north to the northern end of Trapper Lake at N 62° 01.47' W 150° 16.67' then west to N 62° 01.47' W 150° 24.06' then north to N 62° 09.65' W 150° 24.06' then west to the south western end of Amber Lake at N 62° 09.65' W 150° 33.43' then north to N 62° 18.03' W 150° 33.42' then west to N 62° 18.03' W 150° 51.04' then north to N 62° 27.97' W 150° 51.04' then north to N 62° 27.97' W 151° 10.77'.

This permit does not authorize access to private lands. It is the responsibility of the permittee to obtain approval from land owners to access private property for control activities. This permit does not exempt the permittee from complying with all land use regulations including those for state game refuges.





**Unit 16 brown bear control area** - Unit 16B north of the confluence of the McArthur River and Cook Inlet following northwesterly along the south bank of McArthur River to Blockade Glacier, then northwest across the terminus of Blockade Glacier, then along the north edge of Blockade Glacier to a point directly south of McArthur Glacier, then northerly along the terminus of McArthur Glacier, then directly north to the mouth of Chakachamna Lake, then northerly along the drainage divide west of Barrier Glacier, then easterly along the drainage divide between the Chakachamna River and Capps Glacier to the highest point of the divide between Nikolai Creek and Beluga River, then directly north to the south edge of Capps Glacier, then along the south edge, terminus and north edge of Capps Glacier to a point directly south of the terminus of Dogshead Glacier, then along the terminus of Dogshead Glacier and adjacent glacial field edges to the south bank of the southernmost drainage of Triumvirate Glacier to its confluence with Beluga Lake, then southerly along the south shores of Beluga Lake and Lower Beluga Lake to the Beluga River, then south-easterly along the north bank of the Beluga River to Cook Inlet, then southwesterly along the shore of Cook Inlet to the point of beginning at the south bank of McArthur River.

There is no limit to the number of bears that can be taken under the conditions of a predator control permit.

Area/Permit Number	Legal Animal	Permit Dates	Permits available at ADF&G offices in:
Unit 16 predator control area (see area description on page 1 next to map)			
ML202	any black bear	July 1-Dec. 31 (baiting season July 1-Oct. 15)	Homer, Soldotna, Anchorage, Palmer, Fairbanks
ML212	any black bear	Jan. 1-June 30 (baiting season April 15-June 30)	Homer, Soldotna, Anchorage, Palmer, Fairbanks
Unit 16 brown bear control area (see area description on page 2 next to map)			
MB202	any brown bear except cubs of the year and females accompanied by cubs of the year	July 1-Dec. 31 (baiting season July 1-Oct. 15)	Palmer, Soldotna, Anchorage
MB212	any brown bear except cubs of the year and females accompanied by cubs of the year	Jan. 1-June 30 (baiting season April 15-June 30)	Palmer, Soldotna, Anchorage

## Permits and reports

- You must be at least 16 years of age to obtain a control permit.
- Permits are available for Alaska residents only.
- Permittees must have a valid Alaska hunting license to obtain a bear control permit.
- A permit is not valid until you sign it and is not transferable and may be cancelled or temporarily suspended at the discretion of the department.
- You must carry the permit while in the field and engaged in control activities.
- You must complete and return the permit report to ADF&G within the time period specified on the permit.
- Everyone issued a permit must complete and return the permit report, including those who did not participate, unsuccessful permittees, and successful permittees. If you fail to return the report, you will be ineligible for future control permits.

## General restrictions

You MAY NOT take predators under a control permit by:

- Shooting on, from, or across the driveable surface of any constructed road or highway.
- Using a helicopter for control activities unless specified under the conditions of the permit.
- Using poison or other substances that temporarily incapacitate wildlife, without written permission from the Board of Game.
- Using a bow that shoots more than one arrow at a time.
- Using a machine gun, set gun, or shotgun larger than 10 gauge.
- Using a pit, fire, electronically-enhanced night vision scope, artificial salt lick, explosive, expanding gas arrow, bomb, smoke, or chemical, EXCEPT:
  - Scent lures may be used for bears ONLY under a bear control permit during the time frame that baiting is allowed
  - Rangefinders and electronic calls may be used
- Using a trap to take bears unless specified under the conditions of the permit.

Leaving any part of an animal on a public road or right-of-way is littering and is illegal. Leave guts, carcasses, etc., in the field, out of sight of roads and trails.

Driving a motorized land vehicle across or through a stream in which salmon, steelhead, sea run cutthroat, Dolly Varden, Arctic Char, sheefish, or whitefish spawn, rear, or migrate is illegal. Protected streams are listed in the Anadromous Waters Catalog and Atlas which may be viewed at ADF&G Habitat Management offices.

## **Bear restrictions**

You MAY NOT buy, sell, or barter any part of a bear EXCEPT:

- an article of handicraft made from the fur of a bear.
- black bear hides and skulls may be sold but they must be sealed by the department prior to sale.
- the skulls and untanned hides (with claws attached) of brown bears taken in the Unit 16 brown bear area under the conditions of a brown bear permit may be sold but they must be sealed by the department prior to sale.

You MAY NOT transport or export any untanned bear skin or skull from Alaska until it has been sealed.

You MAY use the carcass of a skinned bear as animal food or bait.

## **Bear baiting restrictions**

You must post a sign at your station that clearly identifies the site as a “Bear Bait Station,” and displays the bear baiting permit number assigned by ADF&G and your hunting license number. Other permittees may use the same bait station, but everyone using that bait station for predator control purposes must have a control permit. A permittee may use and maintain the bait station of another permittee after obtaining written permission from the other permittee.

Permit holders wishing to take black bears by bow and arrow over bait in Unit 16 are required to complete an IBEP or equivalent qualification course.

The taking of bears by bow and arrow in snares is prohibited.

You may place bait at 4 bait stations at the same time. All bait must be biodegradable. The parts of fish and game that may be legally used as bait are heads, bones, guts, skin, or other parts of legally taken game not required to be salvaged.

You may also use scent lures with a baiting permit.

You MAY NOT set up a bait station within one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road or trail.

You MAY NOT set up a bait station within one mile of a house (including your own home), school, business or other permanent dwelling including seasonally occupied cabins, a developed recreational facility or campground. In Unit 16, under the conditions of this permit, permittees may set up a bait station within one mile of seasonally occupied cabins if the cabin is on the opposite side of the river from the bait site in the following areas: the Beluga, Susitna and McArthur rivers, the Deshka River (Kroto Creek) below its confluence with Trapper Creek, the Yentna River below its confluence with the Skwentna River, and Alexander Creek.

You MAY NOT take money, bartered goods, or services from someone who uses your bait station. This does not apply to licensed guides who have control permits.

You must remove bait, litter, and equipment from the bait station site when baiting is completed. This includes any contaminated soil.

When baiting is allowed, bear bait stations may be accessed, and bears may be taken at those bait sites the same day you have flown, provided you are at least 300 feet from the airplane.

## Salvage and evidence of sex

You are only required to salvage the entire hide (with claws and evidence of sex attached) and skull of all bears. Hides of all bears must have the penis sheath or vaginal orifice naturally attached during transport and until sealed.

## Sealing requirements

*Sealing means having an authorized ADF&G representative place a seal on an animal hide and/or skull.*

Sealing is required for all bears taken under a control permit. Permittees must present the **unfrozen** hide (with claws and evidence of sex attached) and skull of bears in person within 30 days of the kill. The sealing officer asks questions about when, where and how the animal was taken, and may measure the skull and take some biological samples. Then the officer locks a metal or plastic seal on the hide and on the skull. The seal must remain on the hide and skull until it has been transported from Alaska or until the tanning process has begun. If you are unable to bring in an animal for sealing within the required time, you must complete and sign a temporary sealing form so another person can have the animal sealed. This form must be presented at the time of sealing.

## Reporting

To protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife populations in Alaska, ADF&G needs to know how many animals are taken. Everyone issued a permit must complete and return the permit report, including those who did not participate. If you fail to return the report, you will be ineligible for future control permits.

## Black Bears

**Regular black bear hunting** – Residents may take black bears under normal hunting methods, seasons, and bag limits as outlined in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

**Black Bear Predator Control Permit** – Residents may take black bears under a Unit 16 Black Bear Control Program Permit issued by ADF&G. Youth under the age of 16 will not be issued a permit. Resident youth (ages 10 – 15 years), who possess a hunter education card may participate in Unit 16 bear predator control under the direct supervision of a resident bear predator control permittee. The youth's take shall be reported by the permittee under permittees's permit. Each permittee must possess a valid resident Alaska hunting license along with the permit. Permittees may take black bears the same day they have flown, provided they are at least 300 feet from the airplane. All other conditions are outlined in this supplement.

**Black Bear Baiting** – All bait stations must be registered at ADF&G and all persons who wish to register a bait site must have successfully completed an ADFG approved black bear baiting clinic. This clinic is available online at [www.huntereducation.alaska.gov](http://www.huntereducation.alaska.gov), click on the "Hunter Clinics" link, and then on the "Online Bear Baiting Clinic" link.

**Helicopter use** – resident Unit 16 Bear Control permittees may use a helicopter to access Unit 16 bear control bait and foot-snare camps. The helicopter may transport the permittee, their gear, and/or bear hides, skulls, and meat directly to and from control camps. However, only helicopter pilots who possess a Unit 16 Helicopter Pilot Permit (issued by ADFG) are allowed to assist in the program. Helicopter support of control bait and snare camps is authorized by ADFG permit from April 15 through August 5 and helicopter support of bait or snare camps is authorized from September 26 through October 15. From August 6 through September 25, helicopter supported camps and all associated gear must be completely removed from the field.

**Note:** *The GPS locations of all camps and of the helicopter operation base(s) will be provided to ADFG prior to servicing a given camp. Under no circumstances will a helicopter be used to assist in transporting hunters, hunting gear, game meat, trophies, or any equipment used to pursue or retrieve game not taken under a Unit 16 Bear Control Permit. All permittees must exercise care in not using the services of a helicopter pilot who does not possess the ADFG issued helicopter permit.*

**Foot-snaring for bears** – residents may take bears by foot-snare, but only under a Unit 16 Bear Foot-Snare Permit issued by ADFG. Residents desiring to participate in the foot-snaring program must apply at the Anchorage, Palmer, or Soldotna ADFG office. The following conditions apply to all successful applicants.

1. The permit is valid from April 15 to June 30 unless cancelled. A second permit authorizes use from July 1 to October 15 unless cancelled. Permits can be obtained simultaneously.
2. Prior to participation, black bear foot-snare permittees will be required to attend an ADFG orientation meeting. Permittees must also comply with in field training and/or oversight as directed by department staff.
3. In addition to the foot-snare permit, each participant must possess a Unit 16 Bear Control Program Permit, and a valid resident Alaska trapping or trapping/hunting combination license.
4. The foot-snare permit is non-transferable and may be cancelled, temporarily suspended, or amended at any time at the discretion of ADFG.
5. You must place a sign at each snare bait site that clearly identifies the site as a “Predator Control Snare Site” and includes the bear snaring permit number assigned by ADF&G. Each permittee using the site must write their bear snaring permit number on the sign.
6. All black bear foot-snaring activities will be conducted by teams of two permittees.
7. All bait placed in the field must be associated with a bucket anchored at the site.
8. All foot snares may only be placed on the ground directly under the bucket snare or in buckets.
9. All foot-snares will be checked at least once daily.
10. The permittee may maintain up to 30 active foot-snare sites simultaneously.
11. All permittees must check in with the Department by calling 907-746-6338 prior to going into the field and must check out with the Department by calling 907-746-6338 after returning from the field.
12. All bears harvested under this method must be dispatched using a firearm.
13. If a non-target species is captured, ADFG authorized personnel must be notified as soon as possible.
14. All foot-snare bait sites must be removed from the field within 3 days of season end.
15. Harvested bears must be reported to the Department by calling 907-746-6338 within 48 hours of take.

## **Brown Bears**

**Regular brown bear hunting** – Residents may take brown bears under normal hunting methods, seasons, and bag limits as outlined in the Alaska Hunting Regulations. Females with cubs and cubs may not be taken under hunting regulations.

Brown bears may not be taken over bait in any part of Unit 16 outside of the small brown bear control area (see map on pages 1 and 2).

**Brown Bear Predator Control Permit** – Residents may take brown bears in the small brown bear control area under a Unit 16 Brown Bear Control Program Permit issued by ADF&G. The legal animal under a control permit is any brown bear except for females accompanied by cubs of the year and cubs of the year. Youth under the age of 16 will not be issued a permit. Resident youth (ages 10 – 15 years), who possess a hunter education card may participate in Unit 16 bear predator control under the direct supervision of a resident bear predator control permittee. The youth’s take shall be reported by the permittee under permittees’s permit. Each permittee must possess a valid resident Alaska hunting license along with the permit.

Brown bears may be taken the same day the permittee has flown, provided they are at least 300 feet from the plane AND they are at a bait station or snare site.