

## **Furbearer Management Report and Plan, Game Management Units 14A and 14B:**

Report Period 1 July 2012–30 June 2017, and

Plan Period 1 July 2017–30 June 2022

**Tim C. Peltier and Christopher Brockman**



©2008 ADF&G. Photo by Todd Rinaldi.



2021



## **Furbearer Management Report and Plan, Game Management Units 14A and 14B:**

Report Period 1 July 2012–30 June 2017, and  
Plan Period 1 July 2017–30 June 2022

**PREPARED BY:**

Tim C. Peltier  
Area Wildlife Biologist

Christopher Brockman  
Assistant Area Wildlife Biologist

**APPROVED BY:**

Todd A. Rinaldi  
Management Coordinator

**REVIEWED BY:**

Meg Inokuma  
Biometrician

Jeffrey B. Stetz  
Research Coordinator

**PUBLISHED BY:**

Sky M. Guritz  
Technical Reports Editor

©2021 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Hunters are important founders of the modern wildlife conservation movement. They, along with trappers and sport shooters, provided funding for this publication through payment of federal taxes on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment, and pay state hunting license and tag fees. These taxes and fees fund the federal Wildlife Restoration Program and the State of Alaska's Fish and Game Fund, which provided funding for the work reported on in this publication.

---

Species management reports and plans provide information about species that are hunted or trapped and management actions, goals, recommendations for those species, and plans for data collection. Detailed information is prepared for each species every 5 years by the area management biologist for game management units in their areas, who also develops a plan for data collection and species management for the next 5 years. This type of report is not produced for species that are not managed for hunting or trapping or for areas where there is no current or anticipated activity. Unit reports are reviewed and approved for publication by regional management coordinators and are available to the public via the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's public website.

This species management report and plan was reviewed and approved for publication by Todd Rinaldi, Management Coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC).

Species management reports and plans are available via the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's public website ([www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov)) or by contacting Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Division of Wildlife Conservation, PO Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526; phone: (907) 465-4190; email: [dfg.dwc.publications@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.dwc.publications@alaska.gov). The report may also be accessed through most libraries, via interlibrary loan from the Alaska State Library or the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services ([www.arlis.org](http://www.arlis.org)). To subscribe to email announcements regarding new technical publications from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation please use the following link: <http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/adfgwildlifereport>.

This document, published in PDF format only, should be cited as:

Peltier, T. C., and C. Brockman. 2021. Furbearer management report and plan, Game Management Units 14A and 14B: Report period 1 July 2012–30 June 2017, and plan period 1 July 2017–30 June 2022. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report and Plan ADF&G/DWC/SMR&P-2021-45, Juneau.

Please contact the authors or the Division of Wildlife Conservation at (907) 465-4190 if you have questions about the content of this report.

---

The State of Alaska is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This document is available in alternative communication formats. If you need assistance, please contact the Department ADA Coordinator via fax at (907) 465-6078; TTY/Alaska Relay 7-1-1 or 1-800-770-8973.

---

ADF&G does not endorse or recommend any specific company or their products. Product names used in this publication are included for completeness but do not constitute product endorsement.

## Contents

Purpose of this Report.....	1
I. RY12–RY16 Management Report .....	1
Management Area.....	1
Summary of Status, Trend, Management Activities, and History of Furbearers in Units 14A and 14B.....	3
Management Direction.....	3
Existing Wildlife Management Plans .....	3
Goals .....	3
Codified Objectives .....	4
Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses .....	4
Intensive Management.....	4
Management Objectives.....	4
Management Activities .....	4
1. Population Status and Trend .....	4
2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring and Regulations.....	5
Nonregulatory Management Problems or Needs.....	12
Data Recording and Archiving .....	12
Agreements .....	12
Permitting.....	12
Conclusions and Management Recommendations .....	12
II. Project Review and RY17–RY21 Plan .....	13
Review of Management Direction.....	13
Management Direction.....	13
Goals .....	13
Codified Objectives .....	13
Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses .....	13
Intensive Management.....	13
Management Objectives.....	13
Review of Management Activities.....	13
1. Population Status and Trend .....	13
2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring .....	14
Nonregulatory Management Problems or Needs.....	14
Data Recording and Archiving .....	14
Agreements .....	14
Permitting.....	14
References Cited .....	15

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Map showing Game Management Units 14A and 14B, Special Management Areas, and federal lands; including state refuges, sanctuaries, and critical habitat areas (black numbered circles), for Unit 16 in Southcentral Alaska as found in the Alaska Hunting Regulations. ....	2
Figure 2. Beaver harvest from both hunter and trapper participation in Units 14A and 14B, regulatory years 1997–2016.....	7
Figure 3. Lynx harvest in Units 14A and 14B, Alaska, regulatory years 1997–2016. ....	8

## List of Tables

Table 1. Harvest and methods of take for beavers sealed during regulatory years 2012–2016, Units 14A and 14B, Alaska. ....	6
Table 2. Harvest and method of take for lynx sealed during regulatory years 2012–2016, Units 14A and 14B, Alaska. ....	7
Table 3. Harvest and method of take for river otter sealed in Units 14A and 14B, Alaska, regulatory years 2012–2016.....	8
Table 4. Harvest and method of take for marten sealed in Units 14A and 14B, Alaska, regulatory years 2012–2016. ....	9
Table 5. Harvest and method of take for wolverine sealed in Units 14A and 14B, Alaska, regulatory years 2012–2016.....	9
Table 6. Units 14A and 14B beaver, river otter, lynx, marten, and wolverine harvest percent by month, regulatory years 2012–2016, Alaska. ....	10
Table 7. Units 14A and 14B beaver, river otter, marten, and wolverine harvest percent by transport method, regulatory years 2012–2016, Alaska. ....	11

## Purpose of this Report

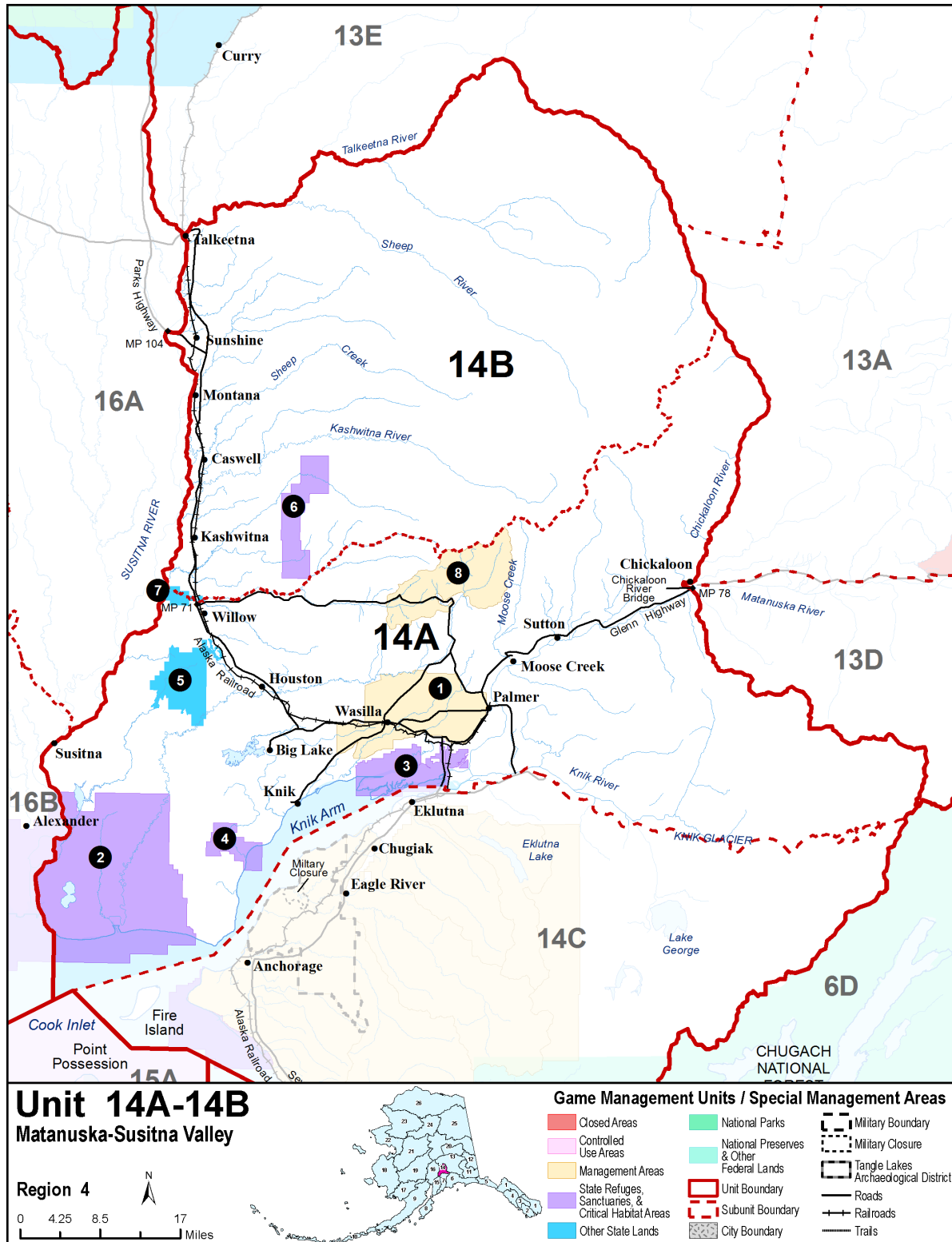
This report provides a record of survey and inventory management activities for furbearers in Units 14A and 14B for the 5 regulatory years 2012–2016 and plans for survey and inventory management activities in the next 5 regulatory years, 2017–2021. A regulatory year (RY) begins 1 July and ends 30 June (e.g., RY14 = 1 July 2014–30 June 2015). This report is produced primarily to provide agency staff with data and analysis to help guide and record agency efforts but is also provided to the public to inform it of wildlife management activities. In 2016 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G, the department) Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) launched this 5-year report to report more efficiently on trends and to describe potential changes in data collection activities over the next 5 years. It replaces the furbearer management report of survey and inventory activities that was previously produced every 3 years.

## I. RY12–RY16 Management Report

### Management Area

Unit 14A (2,685 mi<sup>2</sup>) is in Southcentral Alaska, north of Anchorage. Unit 14A consists of all land from the east bank of the Susitna River beginning at the mouth at Cook Inlet then north to the mouth of Willow Creek. From there the unit extends south of the north bank of Willow Creek and Peters Creek to the headwaters, and then south of the hydrologic divide separating the Susitna River and the Knik Arm drainages. Unit 14A continues to the outlet creek at Lake 4408, then southeast in a straight line to the northern most fork of the Chickaloon River. From there Unit 14A extends south along the east bank of the Chickaloon River to the bridge on the Glenn Highway at milepost 77.7. It then follows the hydrologic divide that separates Carbon and Coal creeks and continues to the hydrologic divide between the waters of the Matanuska River and the Knik Glacier. The unit continues across the face of the glacier south to the south bank of the Knik River to Cook Inlet, along Cook Inlet to the mouth of the Susitna River (Fig. 1).

Unit 14B covers approximately 2,512 mi<sup>2</sup> of the Talkeetna Mountains. It consists of all land east of the Susitna River to its confluence with the Talkeetna River south and west to its headwaters. The area extends north of the north bank of Willow Creek and Peters Creek to the headwaters. From there it continues to the hydrologic divide that separates the Susitna River and the Knik Arm Drainages extending to the outlet creek at Lake 4408 (Fig. 1). Much of the area is above timberline or is heavily forested with birch (*Betula* spp.), aspen (*Populus* spp.), and spruce (*Picea* spp.) trees.



**Figure 1. Map showing Game Management Units 14A and 14B, Special Management Areas, and federal lands; including state refuges, sanctuaries, and critical habitat areas (black numbered circles), for Unit 16 in Southcentral Alaska as found in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.**



## Summary of Status, Trend, Management Activities, and History of Furbearers in Units 14A and 14B

Game Management Unit 14 is further divided into 3 subunits (14A, 14B, and 14C) and contains more than half (more than 320,000) of the people living in Alaska. Unit 14A, in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough area (“Valley”), is the fastest growing population center in the state. Unit 14C includes the Municipality of Anchorage and is managed by ADF&G staff in Region II. In Unit 14B most of the human population is limited to the Parks Highway corridor and the community of Talkeetna. Most trapping in Unit 14 is low volume, and many resource users access areas from established roads or trails. Availability of additional trapping areas close to the major communities is limited due to the expanding human population. Conflicts with other trail users are common, and educational efforts have begun. Trapping and hunting are prohibited or severely restricted in the western half of Unit 14C (Anchorage); therefore, most consumptive use occurs in Units 14A and 14B (Peltier 2007). The proximity of Anchorage to Units 14A and 14B means that for people from Anchorage wishing to trap, these units are the nearest location to do so. As a result, recreational trapping, rather than trapping for subsistence or income supplement, comprises most of the effort in the Valley.

Furbearer species in Units 14A and 14B include beaver (*Castor canadensis*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), short-tailed weasel (*Mustela erminea*), least weasel (*Mustela nivalis*), American marten (*Martes americana*), American mink (*Neovison vison*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), arctic ground squirrel (*Spermophilus parryii*), red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), hoary marmot (*Marmota caligata*), river otter (*Lontra canadensis*), wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), and wolf (*Canis lupus*; addressed separately in a Wolf Management Report and Plan). Life history, range, habitat, and management of furbearers are available on our species website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=animals.listmammals>. Trappers reported that beaver, coyote, ermine, red fox, red squirrels, and wolves were common during RY12–RY16. Marten, mink, and muskrat were reported as scarce; lynx, river otters, and wolverine had become scarce during RY12–RY16. Prey species such as grouse, hare, mice, other rodents, and ptarmigan varied throughout the reporting period (Parr 2016, 2017, 2018; Schumacher 2013).

## Management Direction

### EXISTING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLANS

- Alaska Wildlife Management Plans: Cook Inlet Furbearer Management Plan (ADF&G 1976).
- ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Strategic Plan (2002).

### GOALS

To provide optimum harvests and maximum opportunities to participate in the hunting and trapping of furbearers.

## **CODIFIED OBJECTIVES**

None.

### Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses

The Alaska Board of Game made a positive customary and traditional finding for furbearers in all units, including Unit 14, with an amount necessary for subsistence uses set at 90% of the harvestable portion (5 AAC 99.025(13)).

### Intensive Management

Furbearers are not subject to intensive management

## **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

To provide the greatest opportunity to participate in hunting and trapping of furbearers.

## **MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### 1. Population Status and Trend

ACTIVITY 1.1. Monitor population status and trend using sealing records, the annual ADF&G trapper report, and incidental observations of tracks and animals.

#### *Data Needs*

The population status and trends of several furbearer species may be monitored through the historical records of sealing data. For those species in which sealing is not required, feedback from a sampling of local trappers provides an indication of trends in species abundance as well as a sampling of their effort and results.

#### *Methods*

Sealing information is collected within 30 days of the end of the seasons for several species. This information is compiled and available through the departments database (WinfoNet). The Trapper Questionnaire Report is compiled from the results of a questionnaire sent to a sampling of trappers with a current trapping license. It is produced on an annual basis.

#### *Results and Discussion*

Furbearer population trends are assessed based primarily on information from trapper observations and incidental observations of biologists while conducting other wildlife surveys. This information gives ADF&G managers an idea of the status and trend of the populations of furbearers, although it lacks an estimate of the density or trajectory of any furbearer populations. Population surveys for furbearers would be preferable for management, but at this time are not necessary to ensure opportunity to harvest or long-term sustainability.

### *Recommendations for Activity 1.1*

Continue to actively seek information from trappers and others who observe furbearers.

## 2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring and Regulations

ACTIVITY 2.1. Monitor harvest through sealing records.

### *Data Needs*

Harvest must be assessed to determine trends in use and availability of furbearers.

### *Methods*

We collected harvest data by sealing hides of beaver, marten, otter, wolverine, and lynx taken by trappers. ADF&G recorded harvest location, date of harvest, method of take, transportation mode, and sex. Hides were measured for lynx, otters, and beavers. Sealing must occur by either authorized ADF&G staff or a state-appointed sealer within 30 days of the close of the season. These data are then entered into ADF&G's Wildlife Information Network (WinfoNet). Harvest data are summarized by regulatory year.

### *Season and Bag Limit*

#### **Hunting Season and Bag Limit during regulatory years 2012–2016.**

Species	Season	Bag limit
Beaver	No open season	—
Coyote	10 Aug–25 May (RY12); No closed season (RY13–RY16)	No limit
Fox, red	1 Sep–15 Feb	2 fox
Lynx	1 Dec–31 Jan	2 lynx
Wolverine	1 Sep–31 Jan	1 wolverine

#### **Trapping Season and Bag Limit during regulatory years 2012–2016**

Species	Season	Bag limit
Beaver	10 Nov–15 May	No limit
Coyote	10 Nov–31 Mar (14A) 10 Nov–30 Apr (14B)	No limit
Fox, red	10 Nov–28 Feb (29 Feb in RY15)	No limit
Lynx	15 Dec–31 Jan	No limit
Marten	10 Nov–31 Dec (14A) 10 Nov–31 Jan (14B)	No limit
Mink	10 Nov–31 Jan	No limit
Muskrat	10 Nov–15 May	No limit
River otter	10 Nov–31 Mar	No limit
Wolverine	15 Dec–31 Jan (14A) 10 Nov–31 Jan (14B)	2 wolverine

## *Results and Discussion*

### Harvest by Hunters-Trappers

#### BEAVER

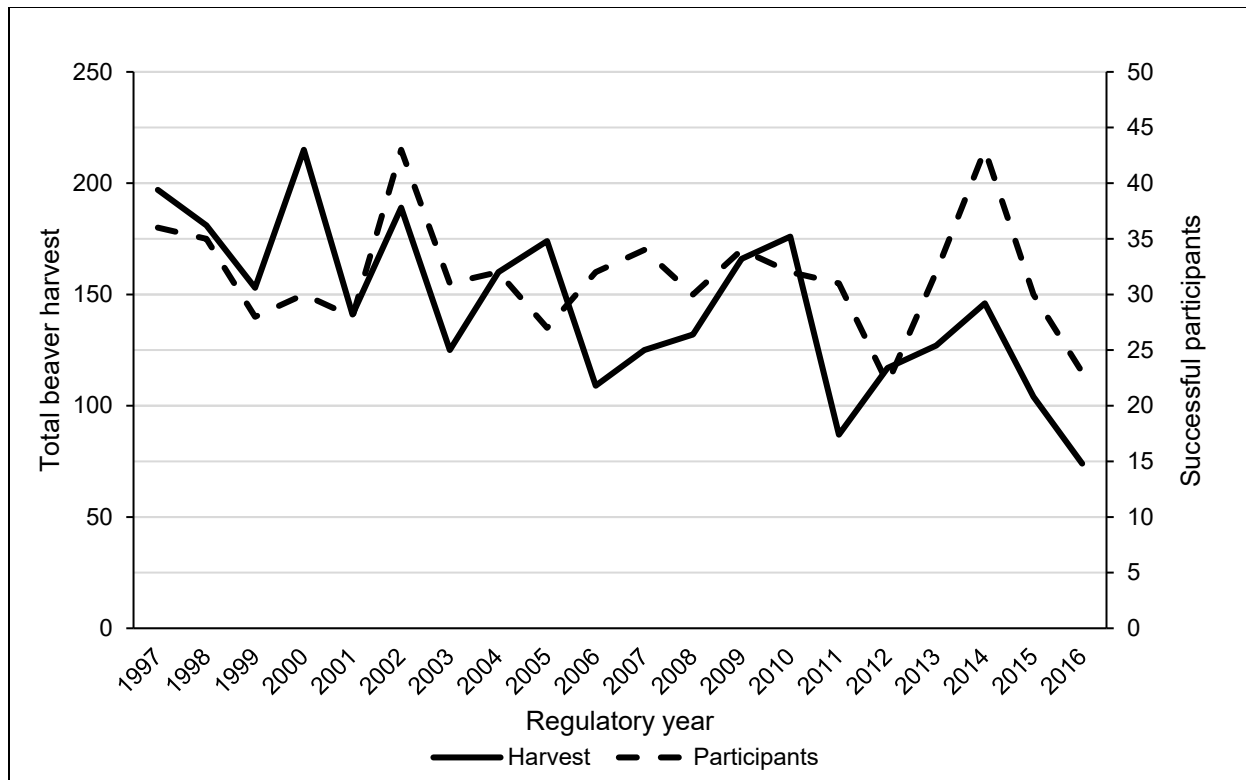
Harvest ranged from 74–146 beavers during the reporting period and averaged 114 beavers (Table 1). This is a decrease from the previous 5-year average of 137 beavers (range 87–176 beavers). Most beavers taken in these units were trapped.

**Table 1. Harvest and methods of take for beavers sealed during regulatory years 2012–2016, Units 14A and 14B, Alaska.**

Regulatory year	Total harvest	Successful participants	Percent juvenile <sup>a</sup>	Method of take			
				Shot	Trapped	Snared	Unknown
2012	117	22	25	0	94	8	15
2013	127	32	43	6	116	5	0
2014	146	43	31	1	133	12	0
2015	104	30	36	5	99	0	0
2016	74	23	23	3	66	5	0

<sup>a</sup> Juvenile beaver typically measure  $\leq 52$  inches (length + width).

Overall, there has been a downward trend in both participation and harvest over the past 20 years (Fig. 2). The decrease in harvest does not necessarily reflect a decrease in beaver abundance, but rather a decrease in the hunter or trapper effort, and the relatively low prices offered for beaver during RY12–RY16.



**Figure 2. Beaver harvest from both hunter and trapper participation in Units 14A and 14B, Alaska, regulatory years 1997–2016.**

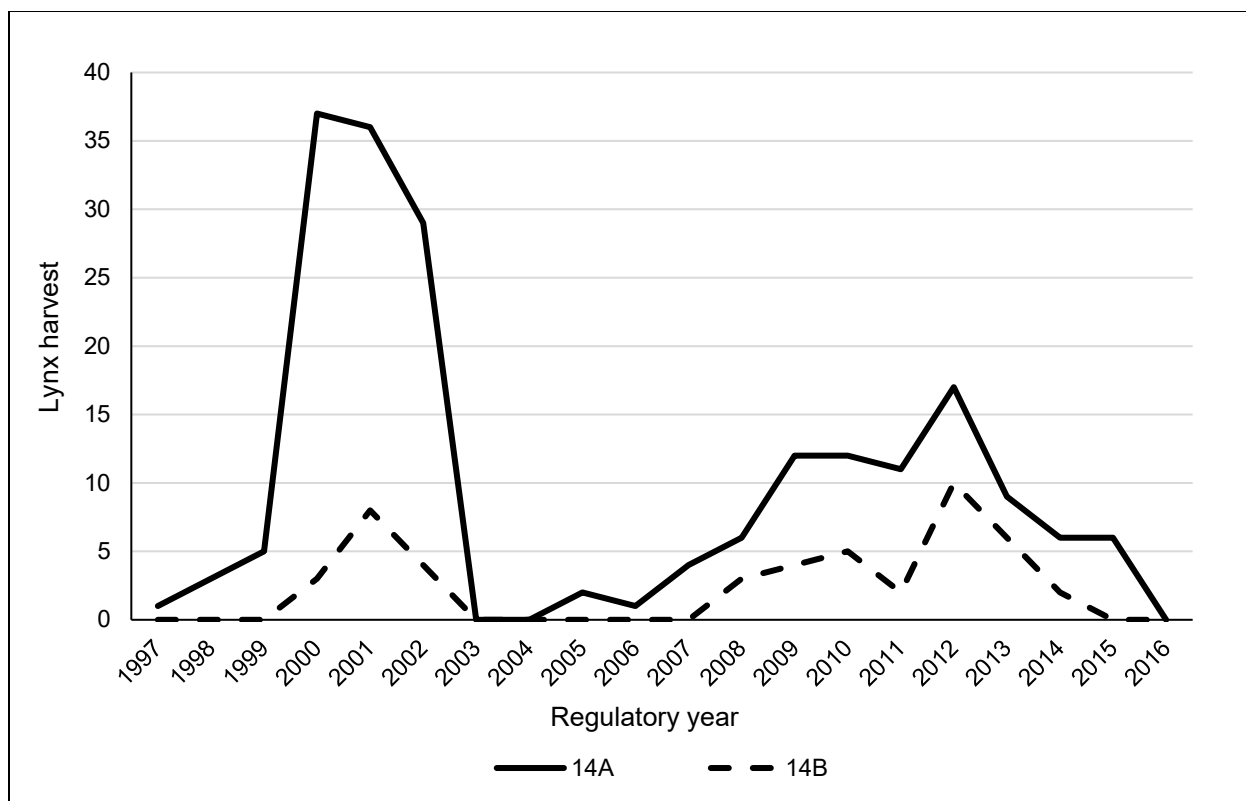
## LYNX

Lynx harvest was largest in RY12 before decreasing to 0 lynx at the end of the period in RY16 (Table 2). The average for RY12–RY16 was similar to RY07–RY11 (11.2 versus 11.8, respectively) and demonstrates that the peak of the cycle occurred between the 2 reporting periods, around RY11–RY12. The previous high point of the lynx cycle occurred in RY01, when there was a harvest of 44 lynx. Most lynx were harvested by trapping during this report period. The majority of lynx were harvested in Unit 14A (Fig. 3). The lynx population in Units 14A and 14B roughly show a 10-year cycle that has been peaking at approximately the start of each decade (i.e., 1990, 2000, 2012).

**Table 2. Harvest and method of take for lynx sealed during regulatory years 2012–2016, Units 14A and 14B, Alaska.**

Regulatory year	Total harvest	Successful participants	Percent juvenile <sup>a</sup>	Method of take			
				Shot	Trapped	Snared	Unknown
2012	27	17	0	1	20	6	0
2013	15	13	0	2	10	3	0
2014	8	7	0	1	5	2	0
2015	6	4	0	0	5	1	0
2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup> Juvenile lynx measure <34 inches in length.



**Figure 3. Lynx harvest in Units 14A and 14B, Alaska, regulatory years 1997–2016.**

#### RIVER OTTER

Annual river otter harvest averaged 23 otters during RY12–RY16, which represents a decrease from RY07–RY11, when 24 otters were harvested. Most of the river otter harvest occurred in Unit 14A, with an average annual harvest of 16 otters. In contrast, annual harvest in Unit 14B was 7 otters. Trapping is the most common method of take in Units 14A and 14B (Table 3).

**Table 3. Harvest and method of take for river otter sealed in Units 14A and 14B, Alaska, regulatory years 2012–2016.**

Regulatory year	Total harvest	Successful participants	Percent male	Percent juvenile <sup>a</sup>	Method of take			
					Shot	Trapped	Snared	Unknown
2012	24	16	40	52	0	23	1	0
2013	26	19	62	23	1	23	2	0
2014	29	17	44	19	1	28	0	0
2015	19	11	69	29	0	19	0	0
2016	16	11	50	19	0	16	0	0

<sup>a</sup> Juvenile otters measure <42 inches in length.

## MARTEN

Annual marten harvest averaged 69 marten for RY12–RY16 (Table 4). This is considerably less than the RY07–RY11 average of 204 marten. Unlike other areas of the state, Units 14A and 14B did not experience an increase in harvest in RY12, concurrent with the high prices paid for marten fur for that year. Marten trapping is less time consuming and less difficult than other species, therefore it is less market-driven and harvest for this species is probably a better indicator of abundance than it may be for other species. In addition, harvests reflect productivity and survival of marten in response to prey species (and potentially other factors such as pathogens, predation, severe weather, etc.) that fluctuate in abundance across years. The areas where harvest commonly occurs in Unit 14 are generally considered marginal marten habitat due to the high level of human settlement that disturbs contiguous coniferous forests (Peltier 2013).

**Table 4. Harvest and method of take for marten sealed in Units 14A and 14B, Alaska, regulatory years 2012–2016.**

Regulatory year	Total harvest	Successful participants	Percent males	Method of take			
				Shot	Trapped	Snared	Unknown
2012	131	27	65	0	129	0	2
2013	65	16	58	0	64	0	1
2014	44	17	60	0	36	0	8
2015	59	16	62	0	59	0	0
2016	44	8	64	0	39	0	5

## WOLVERINE

Wolverine harvest averaged 4 wolverines annually during RY12–RY16 (Table 5). This is a decrease from RY07–RY11 when 8 wolverines were harvested (range 5–11 wolverines) annually. Most wolverines are trapped, and few trappers take more than 1 wolverine annually.

**Table 5. Harvest and method of take for wolverine sealed in Units 14A and 14B, Alaska, regulatory years 2012–2016.**

Regulatory year	Total harvest	Successful participants	Percent male	Method of take			
				Shot	Trapped	Snared	Unknown
2012	7	5	66	0	7	0	0
2013	5	5	75	0	4	1	0
2014	2	2	100	0	2	0	0
2015	6	5	66	0	6	0	0
2016	2	2	100	1	0	1	0

## Harvest Chronology

Marten, river otter, and lynx harvest occurs primarily in December and January, although harvest can be variable and dependent on weather conditions that are conducive for travel (Table 6). Wolverine harvest also occurs primarily in December; however, note that there is a low number of wolverines included in the harvest chronology percentage calculation. Beaver harvest varies seasonally and is influenced by weather conditions, with early break-up years resulting in more harvest in the spring.

**Table 6. Units 14A and 14B beaver, river otter, lynx, marten, and wolverine harvest percent by month, regulatory years 2012–2016, Alaska.**

Species	Regulatory year	Month									n
		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Beaver <sup>a</sup>	2012	9	9	38	17	3	6	6	9	3	117 <sup>a</sup>
	2013	5	0	20	4	11	5	8	24	12	127 <sup>a</sup>
	2014	1	2	18	24	12	8	4	18	13	146 <sup>a,b</sup>
	2015	3	2	7	14	10	2	17	18	23	104 <sup>a</sup>
	2016	7	1	23	14	11	5	5	9	20	74 <sup>a</sup>
River otter	2012	0	0	25	25	33	13	0	4	0	24
	2013	0	0	8	50	12	15	15	0	0	26
	2014	0	0	24	35	10	7	24	0	0	29
	2015	0	0	11	37	26	5	21	0	0	19
	2016	0	0	6	44	6	31	13	0	0	16
Lynx	2012	0	0	4	37	59	0	0	0	0	27
	2013	0	6	0	47	47	0	0	0	0	15
	2014	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	8
	2015	0	0	0	67	33	0	0	0	0	6
	2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marten	2012	0	0	22	66	12	0	0	0	0	131
	2013	0	0	6	89	5	0	0	0	0	65
	2014	0	0	12	61	27	0	0	0	0	44
	2015	0	0	19	44	30	7	0	0	0	59
	2016	0	0	11	75	3	11	0	0	0	44
Wolverine	2012	0	0	14	72	14	0	0	0	0	7
	2013	0	0	0	60	40	0	0	0	0	5
	2014	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2015	0	0	0	17	83	0	0	0	0	6
	2016	50	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	2

<sup>a</sup> Beavers taken under damage control permits outside season dates are reflected in total.

<sup>b</sup> Total includes unknown month of take.



## Transport Methods

The most common form of transportation used by trappers in Units 14A and 14B is snowmachine; however, the large amount of area available along the roadside allows many trappers to access their trapping grounds by highway vehicle as well.

**Table 7. Units 14A and 14B beaver, river otter, marten, and wolverine harvest percent by transport method, regulatory years 2012–2016, Alaska.**

Species	Regulatory year	Percent of harvest								n
		Airplane	Foot	Boat	ATV	Snow-machine	ORV <sup>a</sup>	Highway vehicle	Unk	
Beaver	2012	0	15	0	5	33	0	34	13	117
	2013	0	18	2	22	13	0	44	1	127
	2014	8	34	7	10	20	1	20	0	146
	2015	0	18	3	13	33	8	25	0	104
	2016	0	14	7	18	26	0	35	0	74
River otter	2012	0	4	0	8	71	0	17	0	24
	2013	0	38	8	4	27	4	19	0	26
	2014	3	24	0	7	28	11	24	3	29
	2015	0	16	0	0	79	0	5	0	19
	2016	0	44	0	0	37	0	19	0	16
Lynx	2012	0	4	0	19	70	0	7	0	27
	2013	0	13	7	7	53	7	13	0	15
	2014	0	0	0	24	38	0	38	0	8
	2015	0	33	0	0	67	0	0	0	6
	2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marten	2012	0	9	0	5	81	2	3	0	131
	2013	0	8	9	11	71	0	0	1	65
	2014	14	22	0	9	32	0	5	18	44
	2015	0	32	0	0	68	0	0	0	59
	2016	0	18	0	48	23	0	0	11	44
Wolverine	2012	29	14	0	14	14	29	0	0	7
	2013	0	20	20	0	60	0	0	0	5
	2014	50	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	2
	2015	33	0	0	17	50	0	0	0	6
	2016	50	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	2

<sup>a</sup> Off-road vehicle.

### *Alaska Board of Game Actions and Emergency Orders*

The Board of Game met in the spring of 2013 and 2015 to discuss regional hunting and trapping regulations; however, no changes were made to the trapping regulations within Units 14A and 14B.

To provide continuity, emergency orders in Units 14A and 14B were issued annually during the reporting period to align the lynx trapping and hunting seasons with RY07–RY11.

### *Recommendations for Activity 2.2.*

Continue.

## **NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS**

### Data Recording and Archiving

- Harvest data and copies of sealing forms are stored on ADF&G's internal Wildlife Information Network (<http://winfonet.alaska.gov/index.cfm>).

Field data sheets are scanned and housed on the network server in the Palmer area biologist's office (O:\WC\Palmer Area Office Folder\Species\Furbearer) and stored in file folders located in the Palmer assistant area biologist's office.

### Agreements

None.

### Permitting

None.

## **Conclusions and Management Recommendations**

Harvest of furbearers has remained relatively stable during RY12–RY16 with the largest fluctuations seen in marten and lynx. Lynx are expected to have large fluctuations in harvest due to the cyclical nature of their population. Marten harvest variability is not as predictable as lynx and factors influencing Marten harvest and other furbearer harvest are likely due to either population fluctuations or trapper effort. Trapper effort is driven by many things including fur prices, weather, snow conditions, and gas prices. During this reporting period the fur prices generally declined, and the cost of gas was high. The metrics of method of take, method of transport and harvest chronology were stable, indicating no shift in how or when furbearers in Units 14A and 14B are targeted. Harvests of furbearers appear to be within sustainable limits, and no changes in seasons or bag limits are recommended.

## **II. Project Review and RY17–RY21 Plan**

### **Review of Management Direction**

#### **MANAGEMENT DIRECTION**

The existing management direction and goals appropriately direct management of furbearers in Units 14A and 14B. The management direction for Units 14A and 14B ensures that furbearers will persist as part of the natural ecosystem and that continued hunting, trapping, and viewing opportunities of applicable species will continue. There is no indication that the long-term sustainability of the furbearer populations or that statewide goals (ADF&G 1976) for human uses cannot be met; therefore, Units 14A and 14B will continue to be managed in a manner that complements the statewide furbearer management goals. There are no area-specific issues in the units that require a departure from statewide goals for furbearer management, and furbearers are not currently managed at a subunit scale.

#### **GOALS**

- Provide the opportunity to trap and hunt furbearers.
- Maintain an optimal and sustainable harvest of furbearers.

#### **CODIFIED OBJECTIVES**

##### Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses

The Alaska Board of Game has made a positive subsistence finding for furbearers in all units, including Unit 14, with a harvestable surplus to be 90% of the harvestable portion (5 AAC 99.025(13)).

##### Intensive Management

Not applicable.

#### **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

To provide the greatest opportunity to participate in hunting and trapping of furbearers.

#### **REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

##### 1. Population Status and Trend

ACTIVITY 1.1. Record observations of furbearers seen incidentally during other survey work and anecdotal reports from the public.

### *Data Needs*

Abundance data are necessary to understand trends in the furbearer population relative to harvest pressure.

### *Methods*

Locations and group size (if applicable) will be recorded while conducting aerial survey flights for moose; most observations occur when sightability is ideal. Anecdotal reports will be recorded to the maximum level of detail available. There is no change from RY12–RY16.

## 2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring

ACTIVITY 2.1. Monitor harvest through sealing records.

### *Data Needs*

Harvest must be assessed to determine trends in use and availability of furbearers.

### *Methods*

We will collect harvest data when sealing hides taken by trappers and hunters. We will record location and date of harvest, method of take, transportation mode, sex, and measure beavers, lynx, wolverine, marten, and river otters. These data will be entered into an ADF&G's Wildlife Information Network database (WinfoNet). There is no change from RY12–RY16.

## **NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS**

### Data Recording and Archiving

- Harvest data and copies of sealing forms will be stored on ADF&G's internal Wildlife Information Network (<http://winfonet.alaska.gov/index.cfm>).

Field data sheets will be scanned and housed on the network server in the Palmer area biologist's office (O:\WC\Palmer Area Office Folder\Species\Furbearer\Scanned Archive Files) and stored in file folders located in the Palmer assistant area biologist's office.

### Agreements

None.

### Permitting

None.

## References Cited

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1976. Alaska wildlife management plans: A public proposal for the management of Alaska's wildlife: Southcentral Alaska. Draft proposal subsequently approved by the Alaska Board of Game. Division of Game, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-17-R, Juneau.
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2002. Strategic plan. Division of Wildlife Conservation, Juneau.
- Parr, B. L. 2016. Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2015–30 June 2016. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2016-1, Juneau.
- Parr, B. L. 2017. 2016 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2016–30 June 2017. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2017-3, Juneau.
- Parr, B. L. 2018. 2013 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2013–30 June 2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2018-1, Juneau.
- Peltier, T. C. 2007. Unit 14 furbearer. Pages 155–176 [*In*] P. Harper, editor. Furbearer management report of survey and inventory activities 1 July 2003–30 June 2006. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project 7.0, Juneau.
- Peltier, T. C. 2013. Unit 14 furbearer management report. Pages 177–188 [*In*] P. Harper and Laura A. McCarthy, editors. Furbearer report of survey and management activities 1 July 2009–June 2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Species Management Report ADF&G/DWC/SMR-2013-5, Juneau.
- Schumacher, T. 2013. Trapper questionnaire statewide annual report: 1 July 2012–30 June 2013. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management Report, ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2013-5, Juneau.



