Wildlife Management Report, ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2013-4

Trapper Questionnaire

Statewide Annual Report: 1 July 2011–30 June 2012

Photo by Tim McLeod

September 2013

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation

Trapper Questionnaire

Statewide Annual Report: 1 July 2011–30 June 2012

Coordinator:

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This Wildlife Management Report was approved for publication by Thomas Schumacher, ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire Coordinator.

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Tom Schumacher, ADF&G, PO Box 115526, Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526; Email: tom.schumacher@alaska.gov; Phone: 907-465-4190.

Code of Ethics

A Trapper's Responsibility

1. Respect other trapper's "grounds" — particularly brushed, maintained traplines with a history of use.
2. Check traps regularly.
3. Promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals.
4. Obtain landowner's permission before trapping on private property.
5. Know and use proper releasing and killing methods.
6. Develop set location methods to prevent losses.
7. Trap in the most humane way possible.
8. Properly dispose of animal carcasses.
9. Concentrate trapping in areas where animals are overabundant for the supporting habitat.
10. Promptly report the presence of diseased animals to wildlife authorities.
11. Assist landowners who are having problems with predators and other fur-bearers that have become a nuisance.
12. Support and help train new trappers in trapping ethics, methods and means, conservation, fur handling and marketing.
13. Obey all trapping regulations, and support strict enforcement by reporting violations.
14. Support and promote sound furbearer management.

This code of ethics is reprinted from the Alaska Trappers Manual. The manual was created through a joint effort between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Trappers Association. The manual is available in Alaska book stores and from the Alaska Trappers Association for approximately $20.00.

Alaska's Regions and Game Management Units

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Marten set Photo by Ken Marsh

ALASKA TRAPPER REPORT

2011–12

INTRODUCTION

The 2011–12 Trapper Report contains information provided by Alaska trappers through the annual Trapper Questionnaire. On the following pages you'll find out how other Alaskans ran their traplines, what their primary target species were, how much effort they put into catching fur, how abundant furbearer and prey species were on their traplines, and how many furbearers they trapped. You'll also find summaries of Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) fur sealing, acquisition, and raw fur export records, and comments from trappers throughout the state.

This is the second Trapper Report written using data compiled by an optical scanner, rather than having ADF&G staff type information provided by trappers into our electronic database. We've made some improvements to the Questionnaire form and to the scanning program, and this process is now working well. A positive result of this improvement is that this report is being published earlier than previous reports, and we hope to have the 2012-13 report completed by December 2013.

The number of trappers responding to the 2011-12 survey was a bit lower than in previous years. Trappers responded to the survey at a better rate than for the 2010-11 survey, but the number of active trappers for whom we have current addresses declined. Maintaining current mailing addresses for trappers is one of the biggest challenges of coordinating this program. Prior to mailing out the 2012-13 survey we identified additional active trappers based on trapping license and fur sealing records, and that survey was mailed to 2,377 trappers in early May 2013. However, if you or other trappers you know have changed addresses in the last year or two, please let me know your new address. My mail, phone, and e-mail contact information is below. Please also encourage new trappers to contact me.

As always, we maintain strict confidentiality, and names of individuals and references to specific traplines will not be included in any reports. We hope you find this report informative and welcome your suggestions for improvement.

Trapper Questionnaire Reports are mailed to all trappers who responded to the survey, and this and previous Reports can be found on our website at:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=trapping.reports

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A Profile of Trapping in Alaska

Trapper Information

Did you trap?

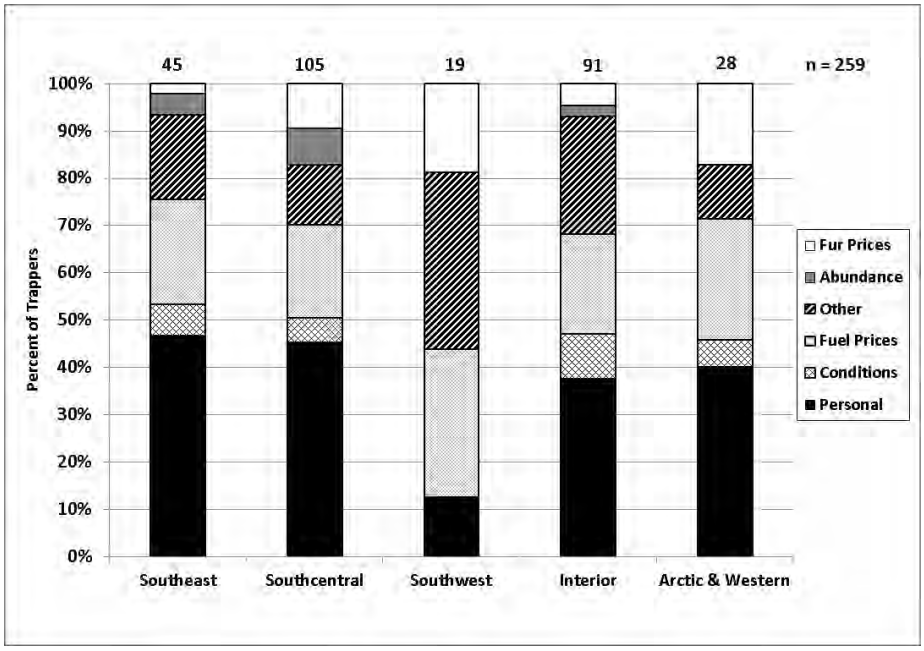
This year 2323 questionnaires were mailed throughout the state and 578 were returned for an overall response rate of 25%; 3% higher than the 2010-11 response rate. The response rate was lower from the Interior region than from other regions. Statewide, 55% of respondents trapped during the 2011–12 season, the same as during the 2010-11 season.

Response to 2011-12 Trapper Questionnaire

Region	Trapped	Did Not Trap	No Response	Total	% Responding
Arctic & Western	25	31	151	207	27%
Interior	115	76	660	851	22%
Southcentral	102	98	623	823	24%
Southeast	46	36	182	264	31%
Southwest	31	18	129	178	28%
Total	**319**	**259**	**1745**	**2323**	**25%**

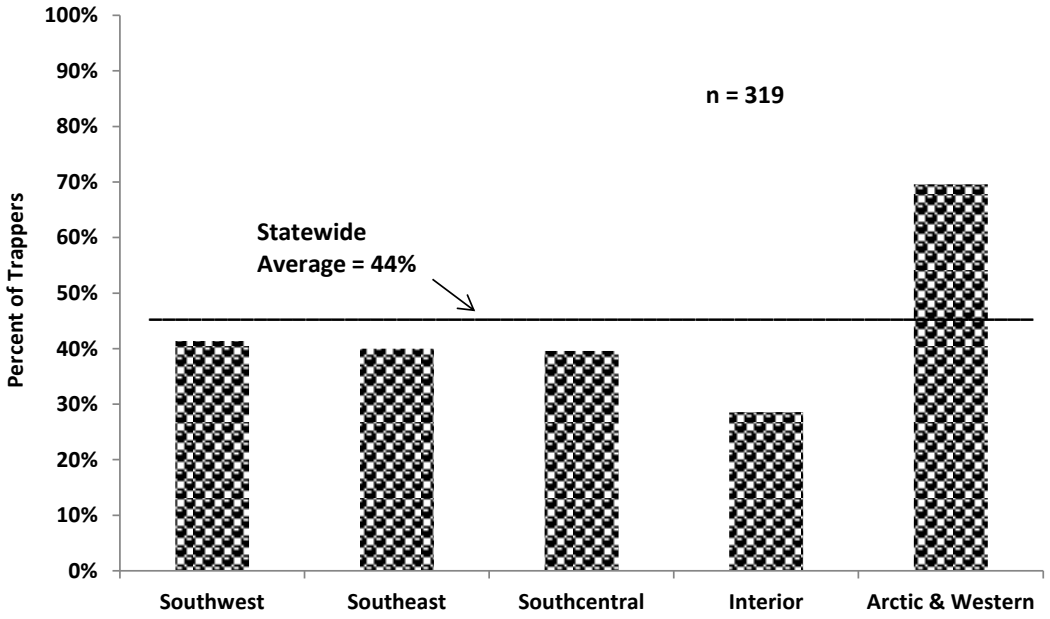
If you did not trap during 2011-12, why not?

Statewide, 259 respondents gave reasons why they didn't trap during the 2011-12 season. Some gave more than one reason. Over all, 68% of the reasons cited were in the personal or "other" categories (poor health, no time, conflicts with jobs or school). High fuel prices were cited as a reason people did not trap 25% of the time, slightly less than in the last survey. Fur prices accounted for 10% of responses and weather conditions and animal abundance were cited in 7% and 5% of the answers respectively. Responses were similar among regions, but high fuel prices and low fur prices were most often cited by trappers in the Southwest and Arctic and Western regions. The number of trappers in each region who responded is given above each bar.



Did you take a young person (under 16) with you on your trapline this year?

During the 2011-12 trapping season, 44% of trappers statewide reported they took a young person trapping with them, continuing a lower level from the 48% reported 6 years ago. As shown by the graph below, the highest percentage of trappers taking youngsters trapping was in the Arctic & Western region (70%) and the lowest percentage (29%) was in Interior Alaska.



Lynx mittens

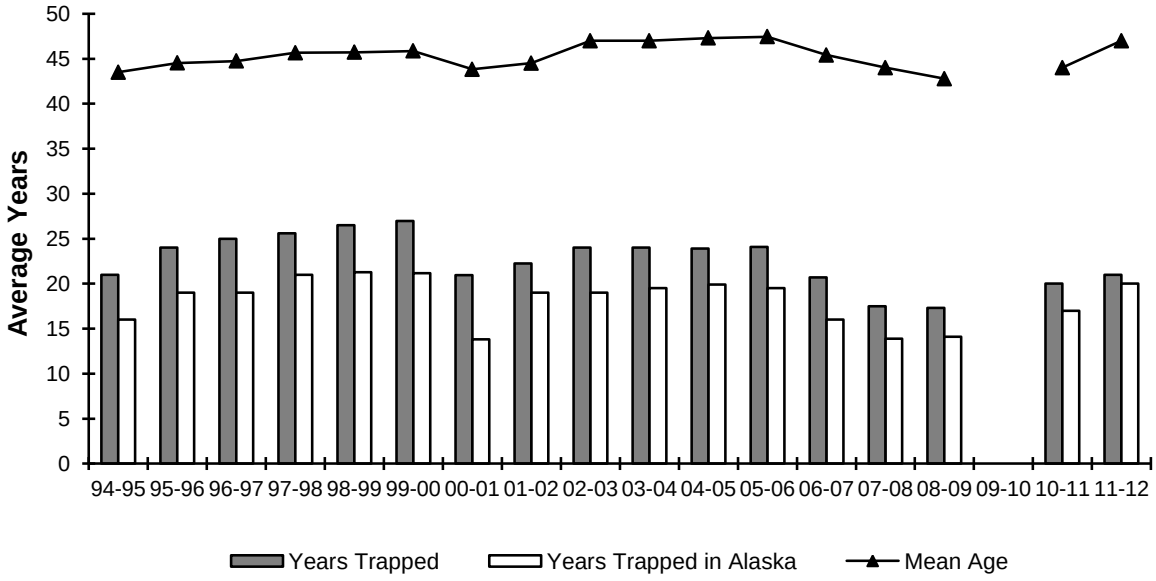
Beaver teddy bear

Photos by Victoria Kotongan

Making a beaver set Photo by Bill Brophy

How much trapping experience do you have and how long have you trapped in Alaska?

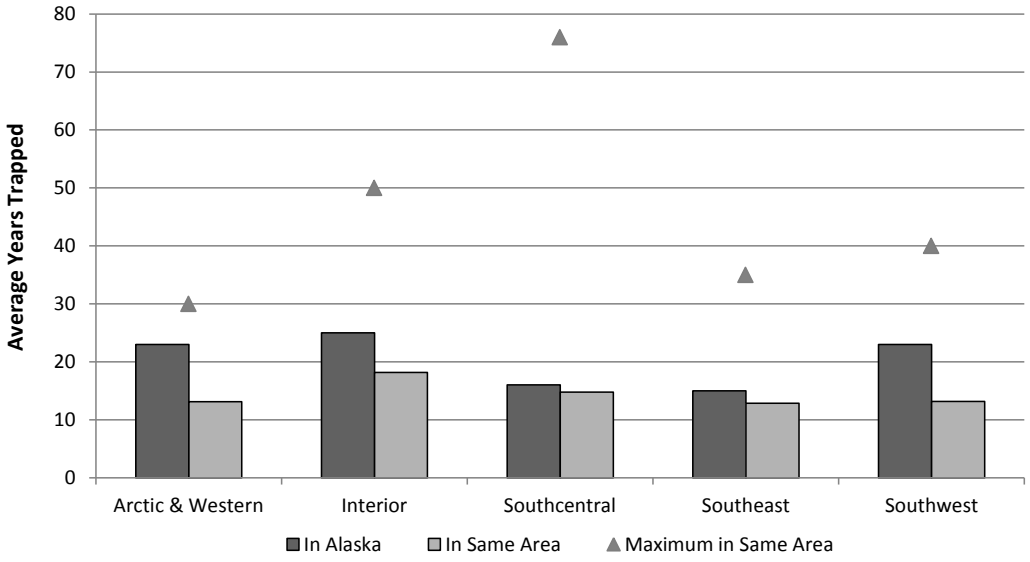
During 2011-12, the overall experience of trappers and the average number of years trapping in Alaska was the highest in the past 3 years. (No data were collected in 2009-10.) Statewide, trappers averaged 20 years experience in Alaska and 21 years trapping overall. Trappers in the Southwest region (49) and those in the Interior and Southcentral regions (48) were the oldest on average and those in Southeast (40 years) the youngest on average. The oldest trapper responding was 92 from the Southwest region. The top line in the graph shows average statewide trapper age. In 2011-12 it was 47, up from 44 in 2010-11 and the highest since 2005-06.



Trapline Information

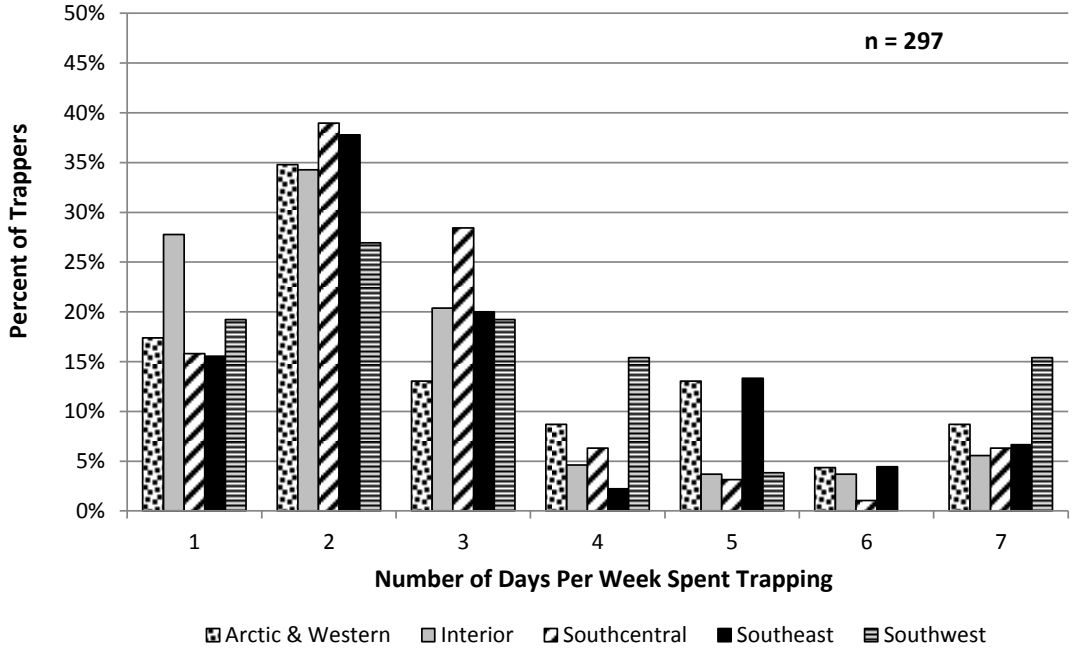
How many years have you been trapping in the same area?

On average, Interior trappers who responded spent the longest time trapping in Alaska (25 years) and trapping in the same area (18 years). Southeast, Southwest, and Arctic & Western trappers reported trapping in the same area an average of 13 years. Southcentral trappers reporting trapping an average of 15 years in the same place. One Southcentral trapper reported trapping in the same area for 76 years.



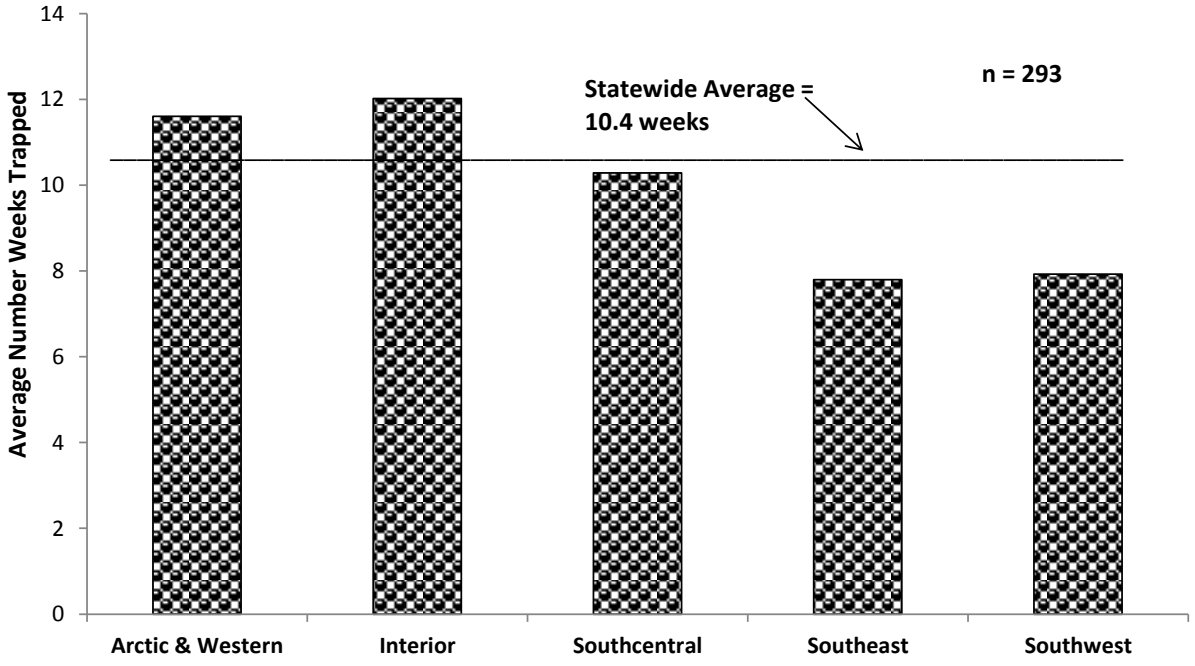
How many days per week did you trap?

Similar to last year, statewide, 79% of all trappers conducted their trapping activities 3 days per week or less. Southwest Alaska (15%) again had the highest percentage of any region of trappers who trapped every day of the week. Arctic & Western (35%) and Southwest (34%) regions had the highest percentage of trappers who were afield 4 days a week or more.

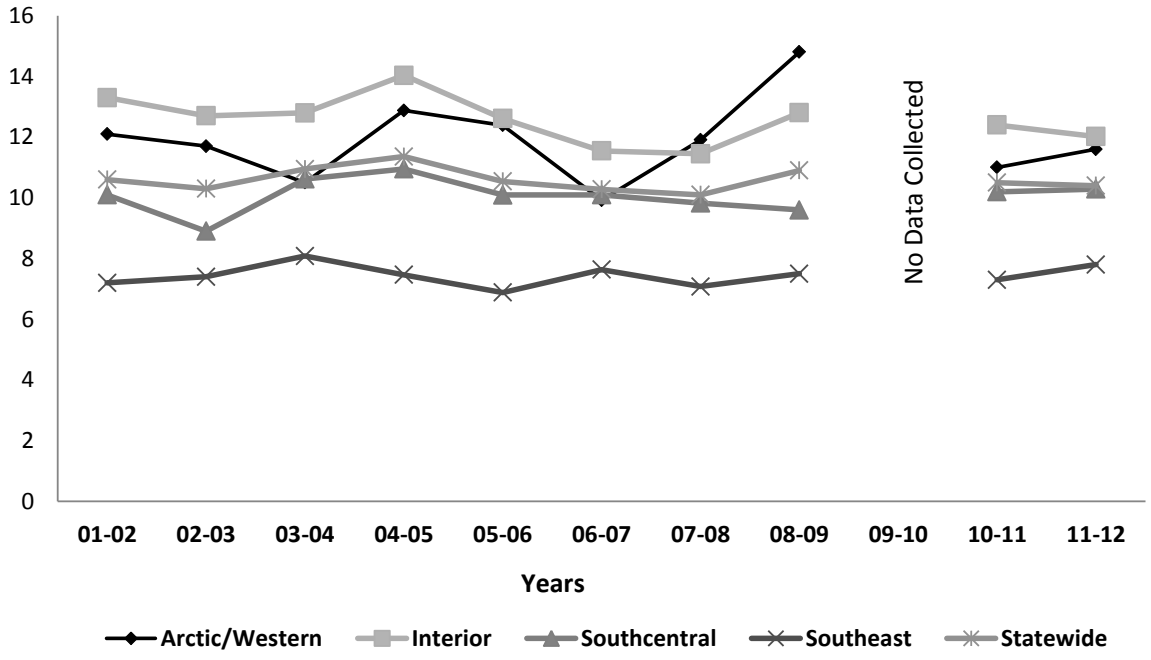


How many weeks did you trap?

During the 2011-12 season Southeast trappers reported trapping for an average of 7.8 weeks. Southwest trappers were in the field 7.9 weeks on average and Southcentral trappers averaged 10.3 weeks afield. Interior trappers were in the field an average of 12 weeks, and Arctic & Western trappers trapped an average of nearly 11.6 weeks.

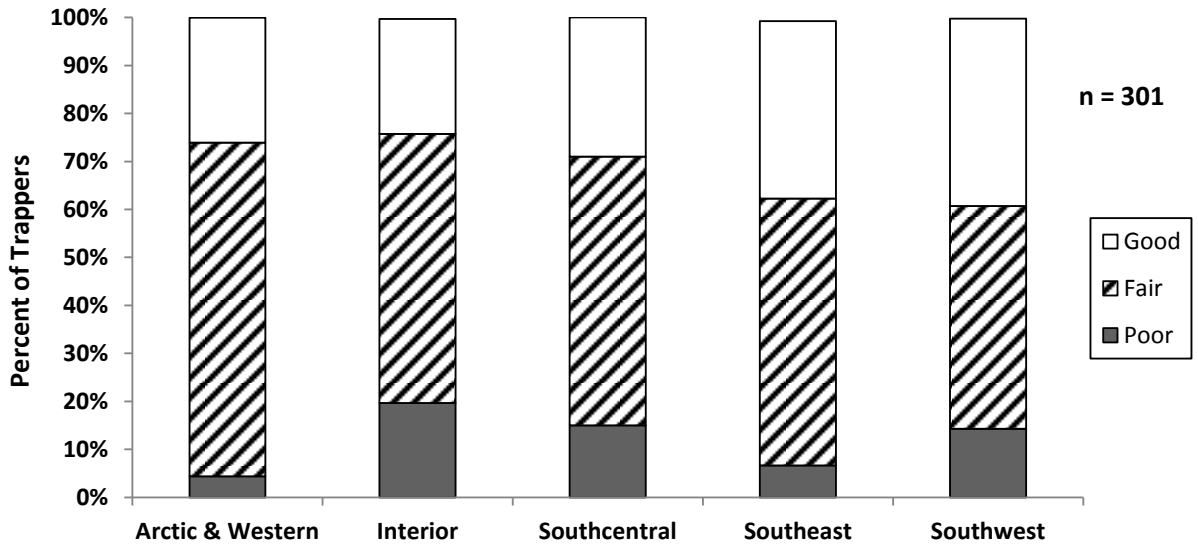


The average number of weeks trapped statewide during the 2011–12 season was 10.4, a slight drop from 10.5 weeks in 2010-11. Trappers in the Arctic & Western region spent an average of half a week more afield in 2011-12 than in 2010-11. Average weeks afield for trappers in Southeast and Southcentral increased slightly, whereas Interior and Southwest tappers spent an average of half a week less afield than the previous year.

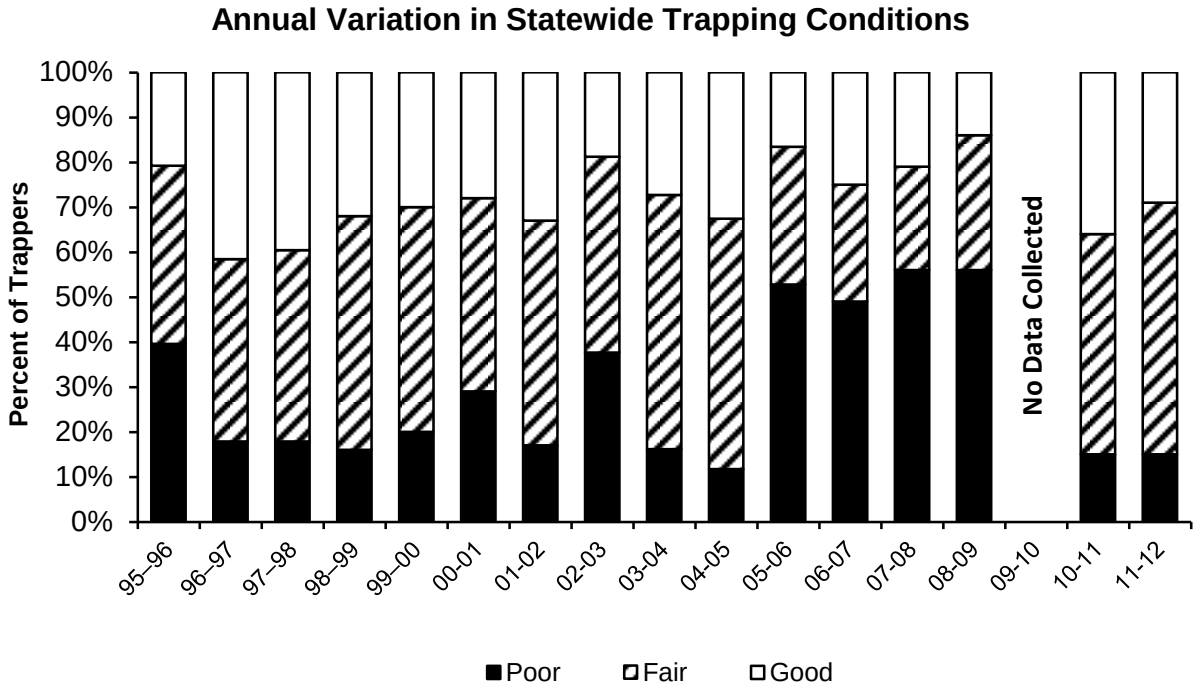


What were trapping conditions like on your trapline?

Most trappers in all regions reported fair trapping conditions in 2011-12. A higher percentage of Interior trappers (20%) than in other regions reported poor conditions. Southeast trappers (37%) and Southwest trappers (39%) were most likely to report good conditions. Seventy percent of Arctic & Western region trappers reported conditions were fair. Statewide averages were 29% good, 56% fair, and 15% poor.



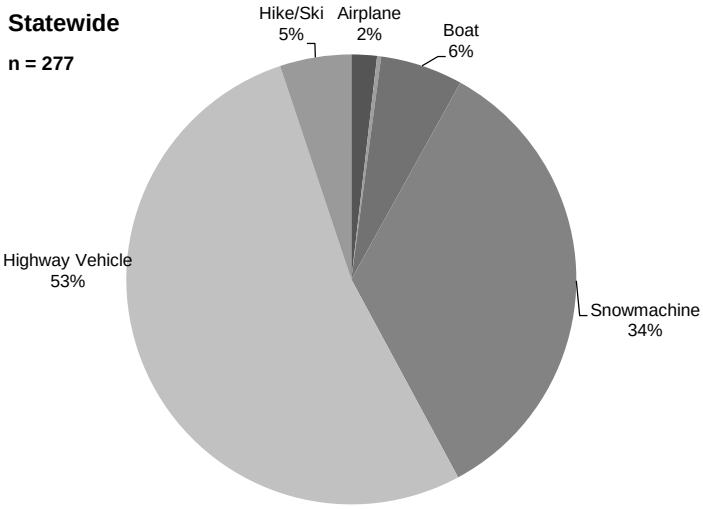
Statewide, 29% of trappers reported good trapping conditions. That is 7% less than 2010-11 but higher than years since the 2004-05 season. The percentage of those reporting poor conditions (15%) was the same as 2010-11 and the second lowest in the 17 years the trapper survey has been conducted.



What mode of transportation did you use to get to your main trapping area?

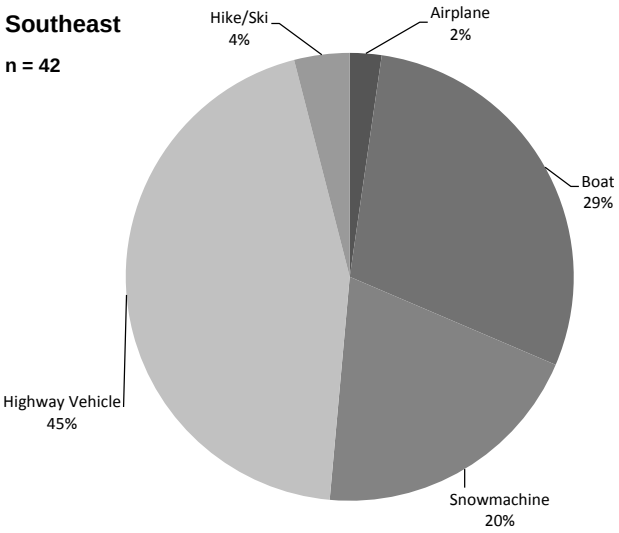
Statewide

n = 277



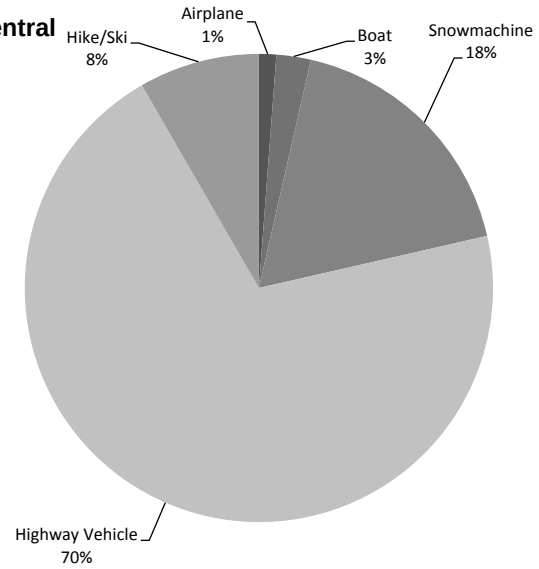
Southeast

n = 42



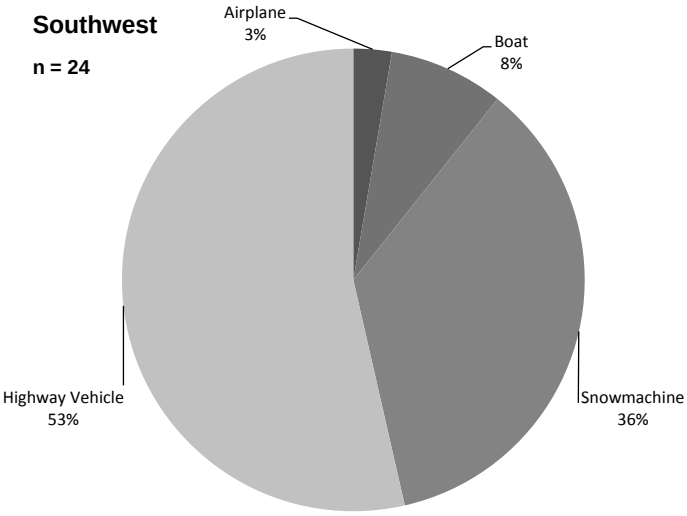
Southcentral

n = 93



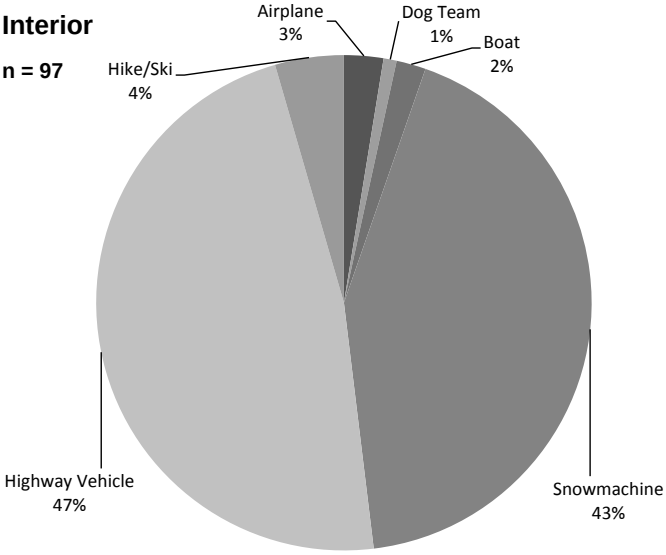
Southwest

n = 24



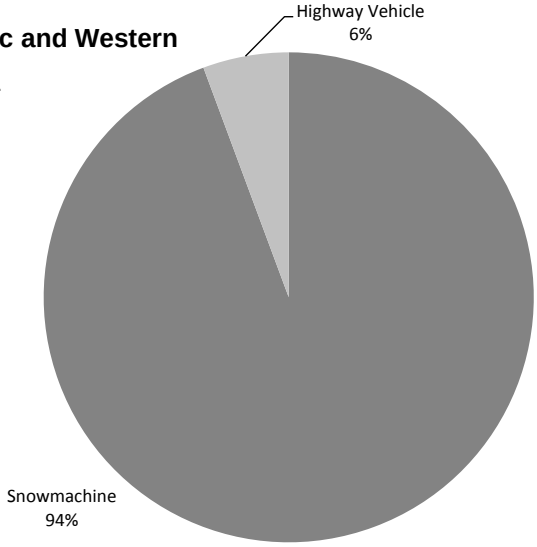
Interior

n = 97



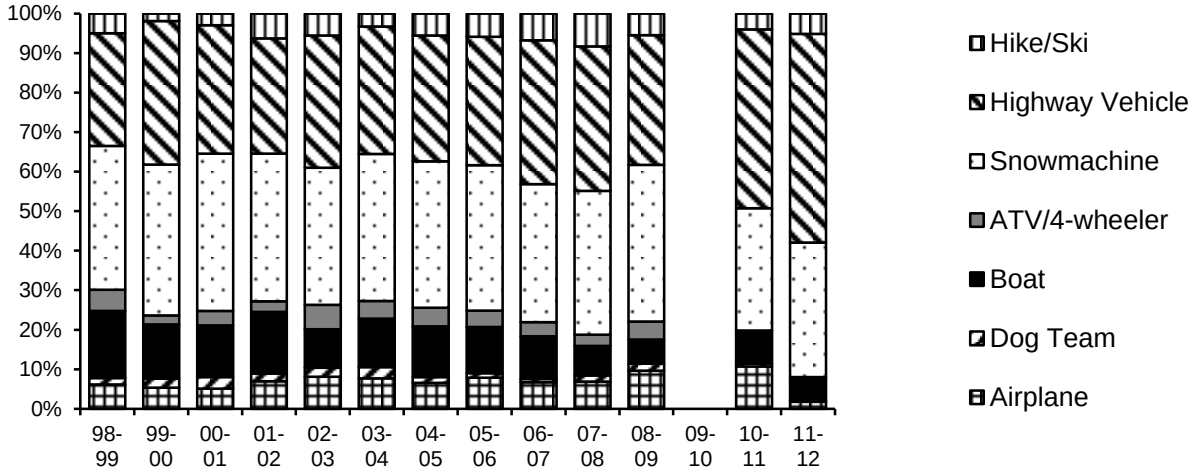
Arctic and Western

n = 21

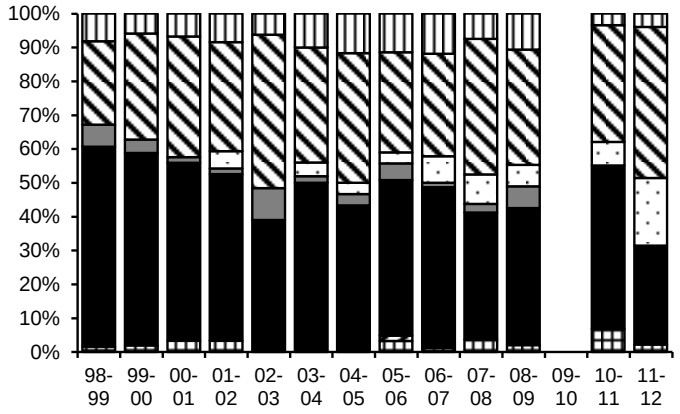


Trends in mode of transportation used to get to traplines

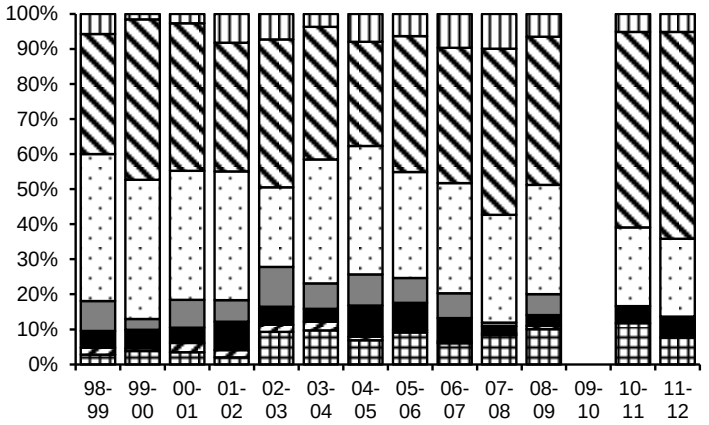
Statewide



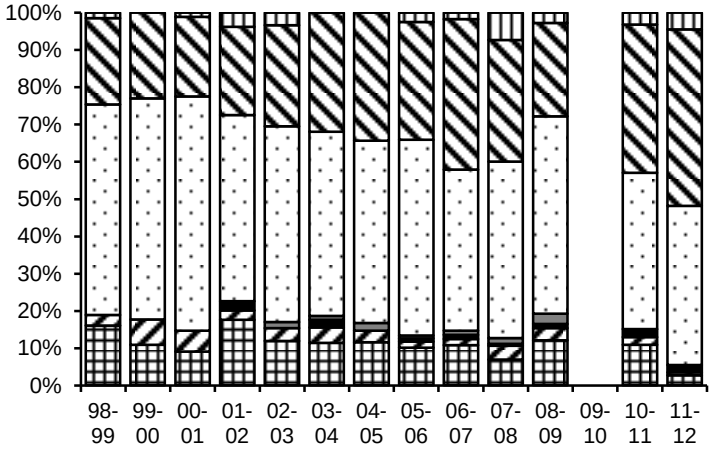
Southeast



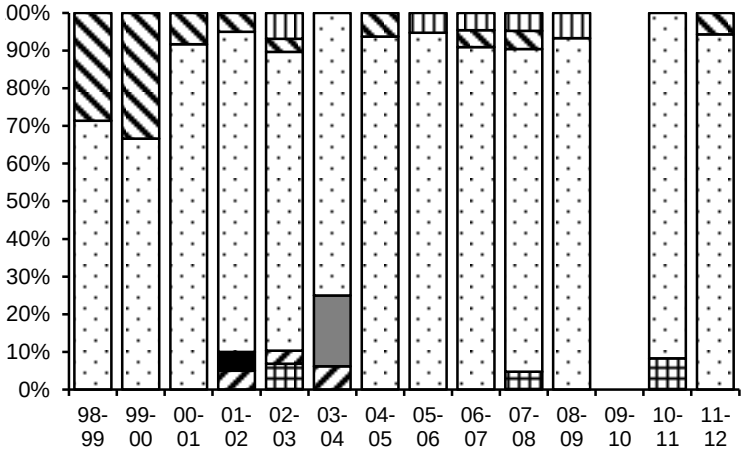
Southcentral & Southwest



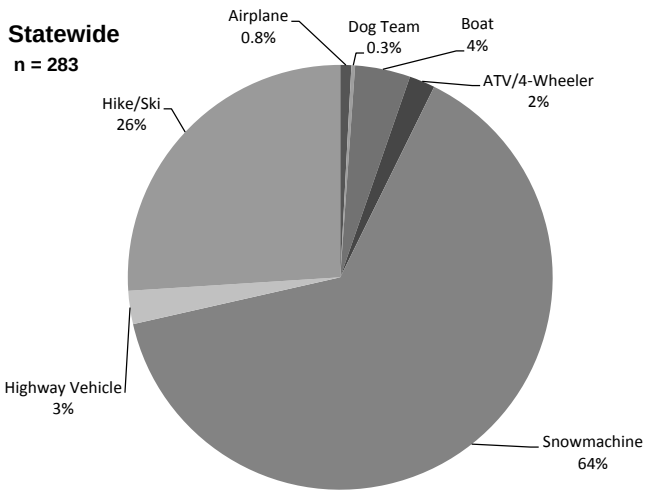
Interior

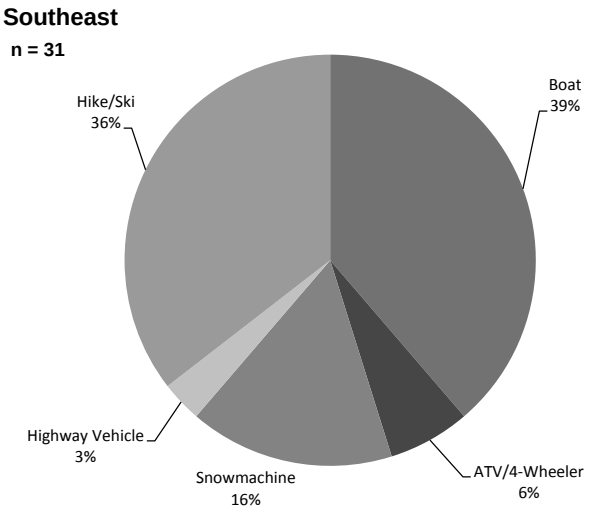


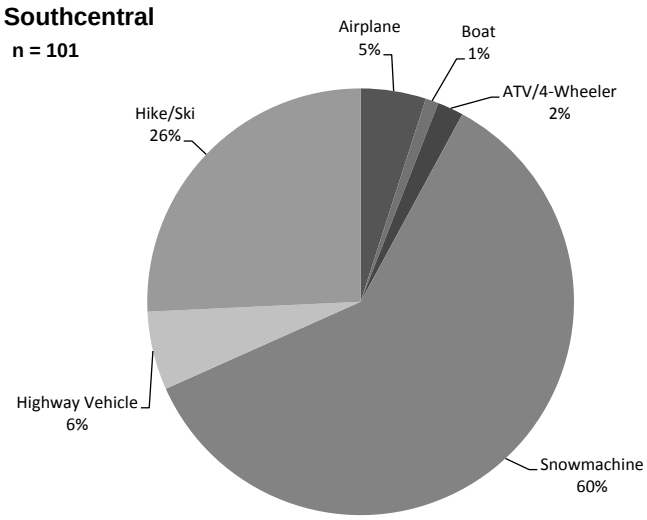
Arctic & Western

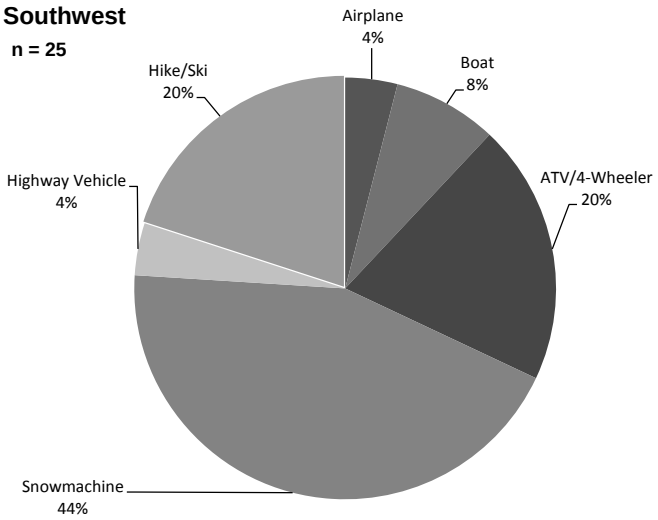


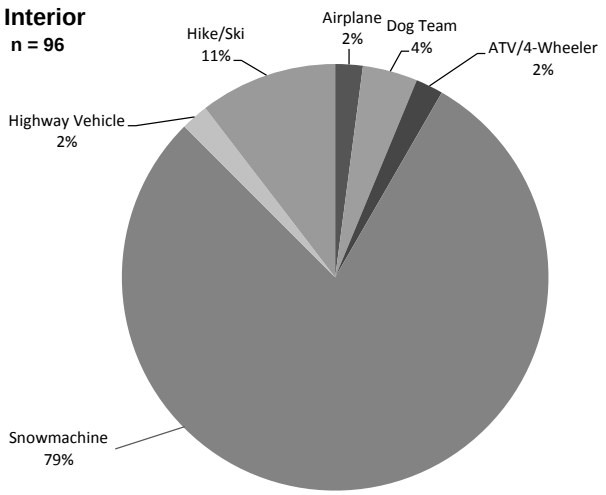
What mode of transportation did you use to run your main trapline?

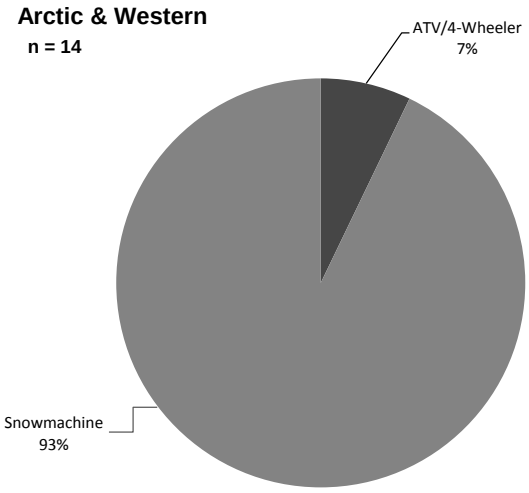






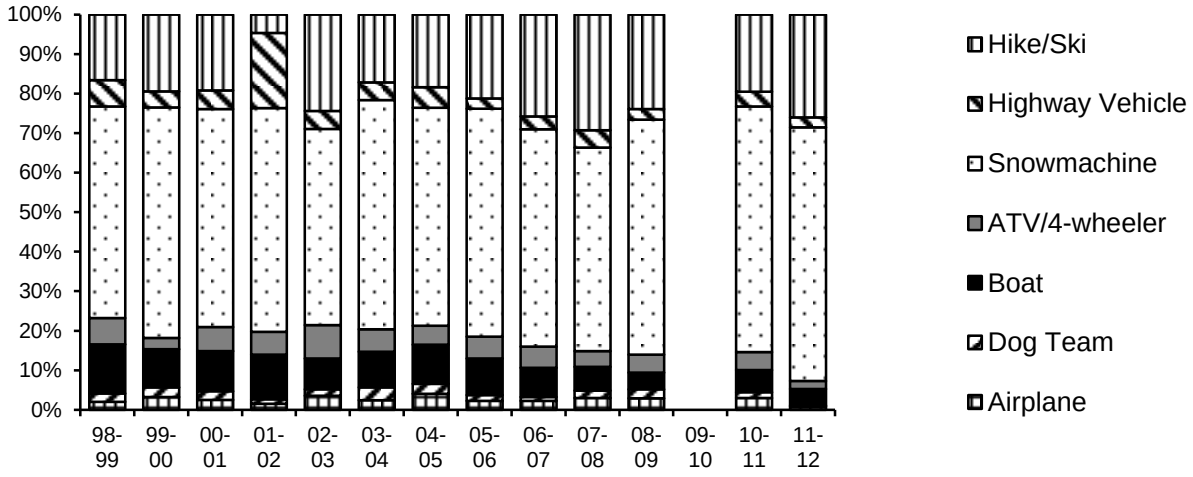




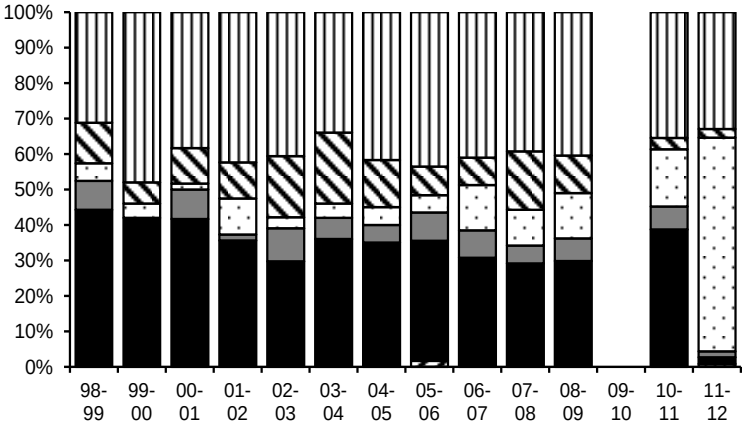


Trends in mode of transportation used to run traplines

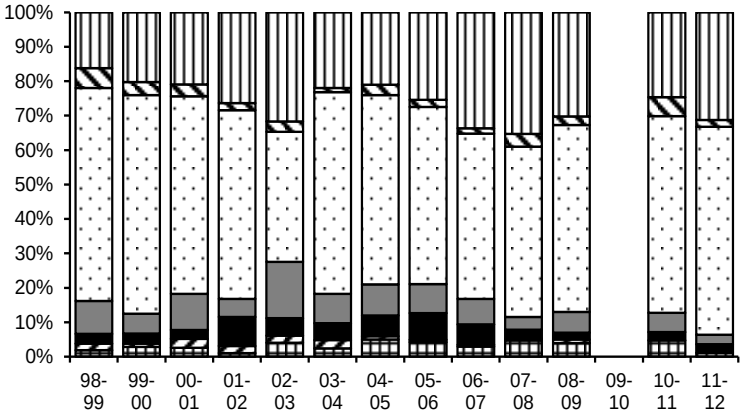
Statewide



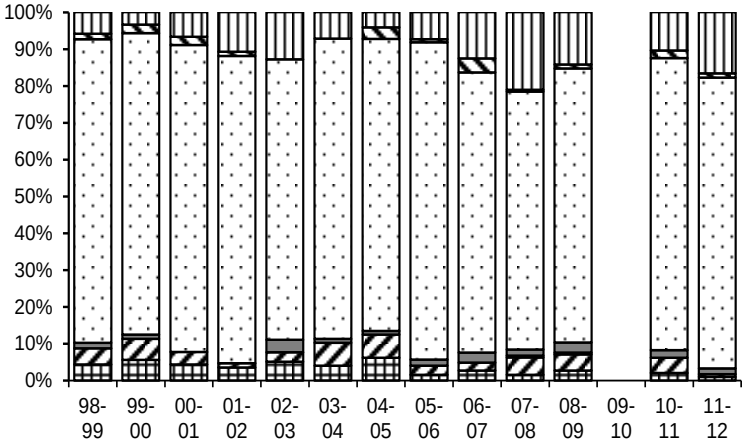
Southeast



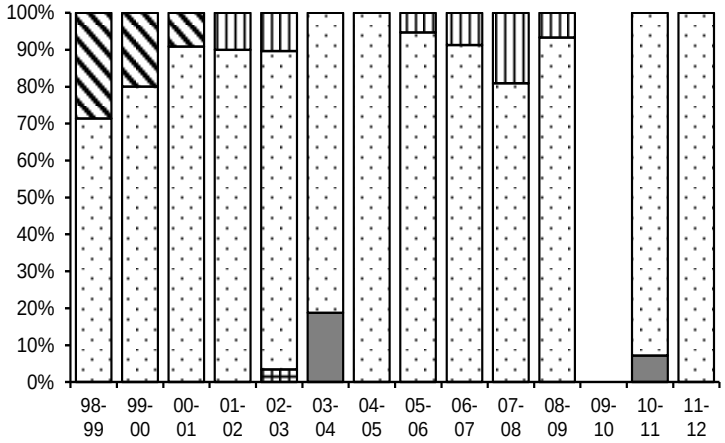
Southcentral & Southwest



Interior



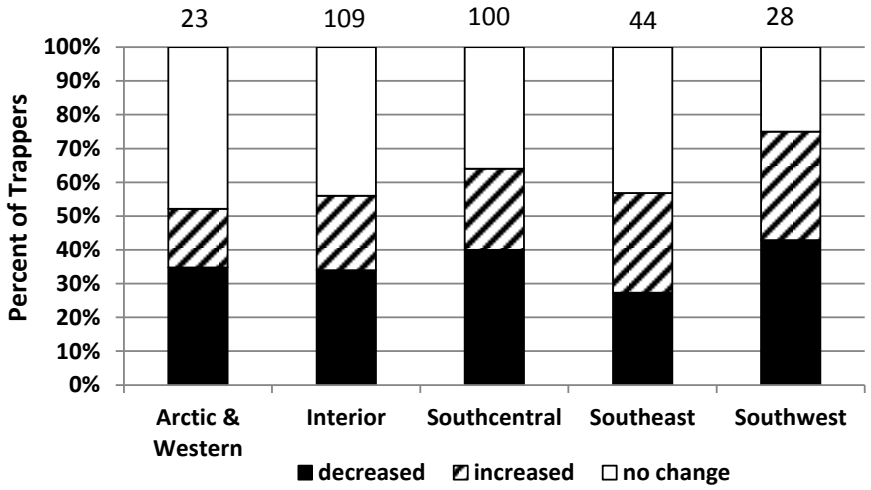
Arctic & Western



Trapping Effort

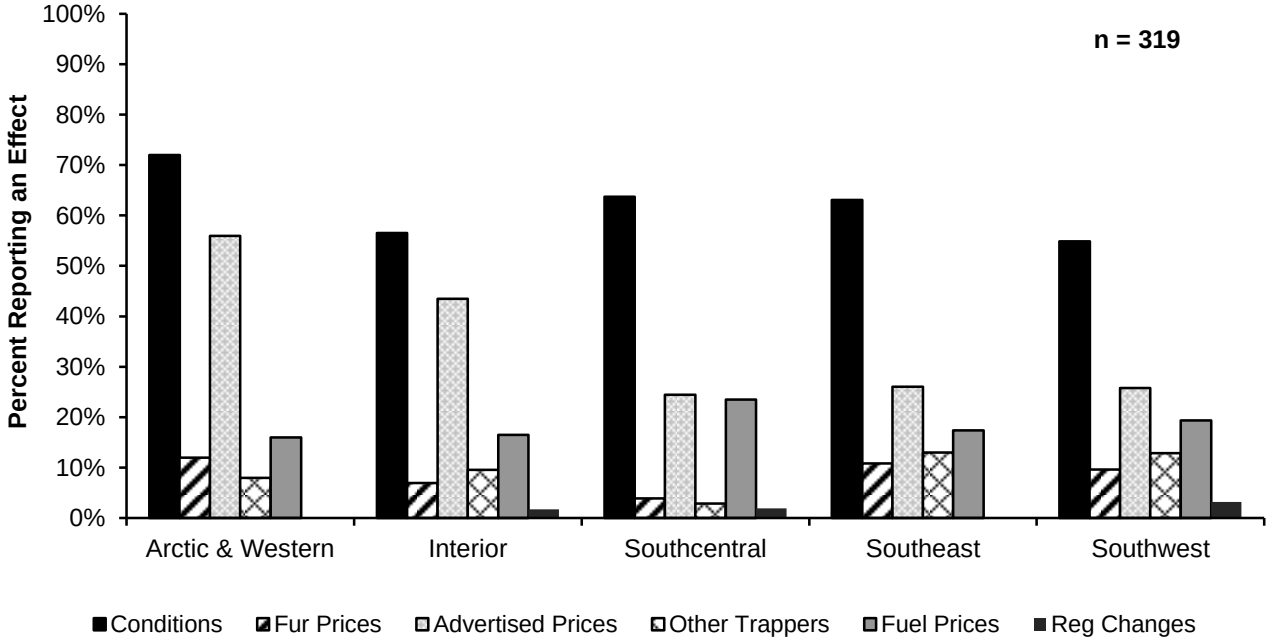
Did you change your trapping effort this season?

Changes in trapping effort during the 2011-12 season were very specific to regions. More than half of trappers in all regions reported some change. Southwest trappers reported the most change in effort with 43% decreasing effort and 32% increasing effort. Only 25% reported no change. Southeast trappers were about evenly divided with 30% reporting increased effort and 27% decreased effort. A decidedly larger percentage of Southcentral trappers decreased effort (40%) than increased (24%). Arctic & Western (48%) and Interior (44%) trappers were most likely to report no change in effort. Of those who did change more trappers in both regions decreased effort than increased by 35% to 17% and 34% to 22%, respectively. The number of trappers in each region who responded is given above each bar.



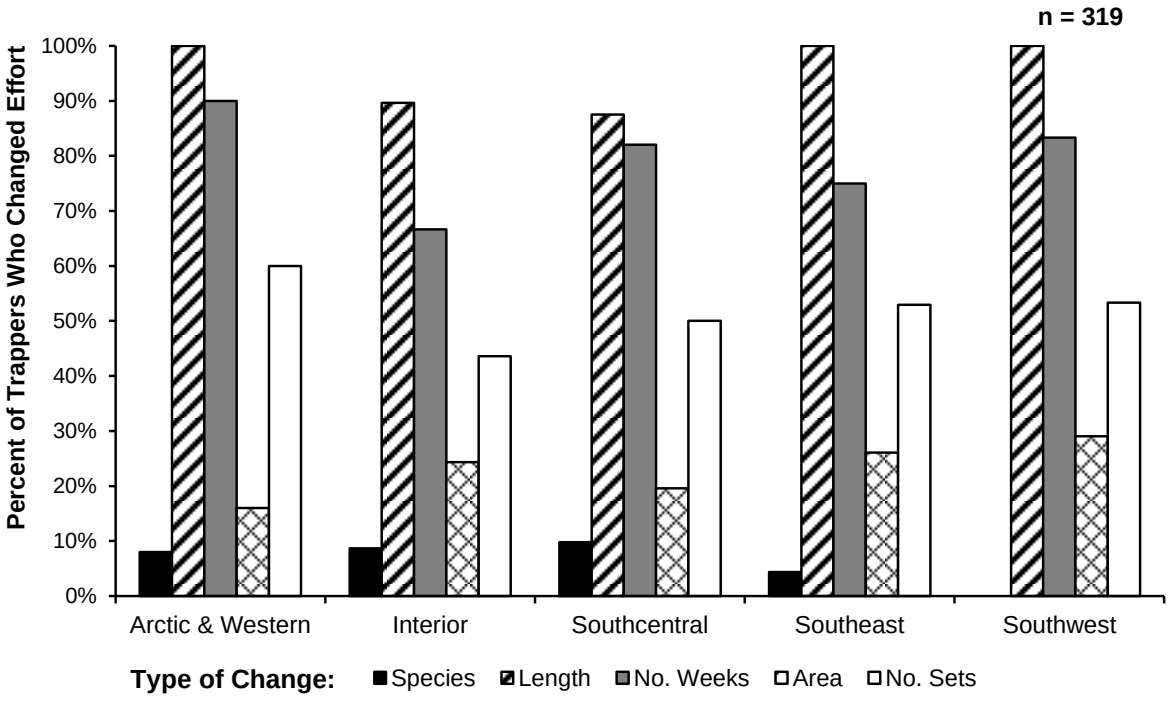
What factors affected your trapping effort?

In all regions trapping conditions was the most important factor cited as affecting trapping effort during the 2011-12 season. Advertised prices was the second most important factor, especially for Arctic & Western and Interior trappers. In every region, high fuel prices was the third most important factor affecting trapping effort.



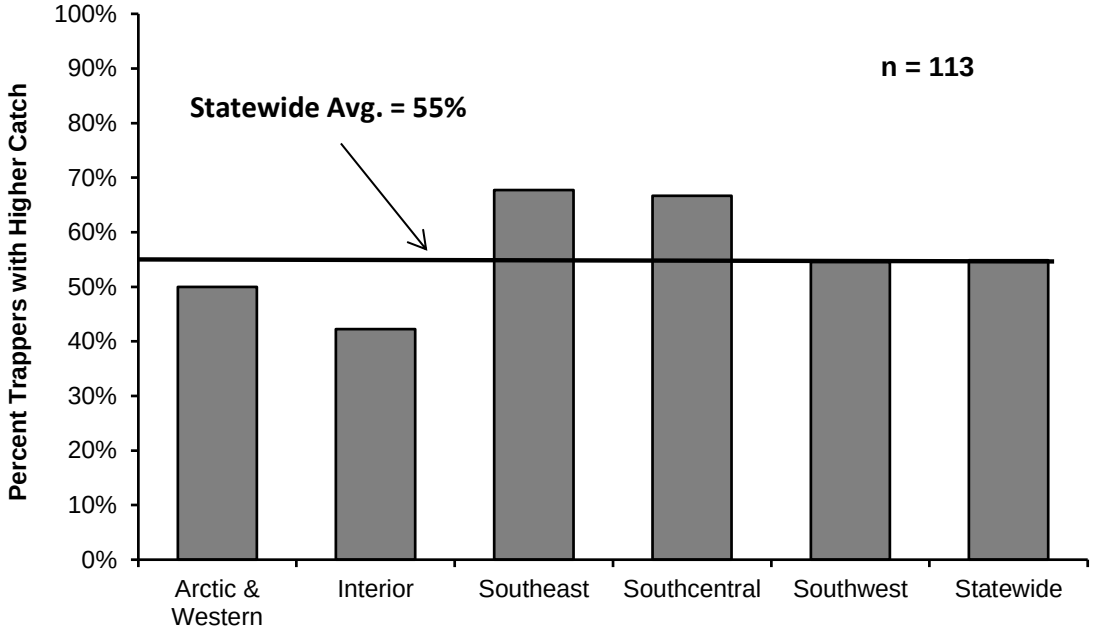
How did you change your trapping effort?

Trapline length and weeks trapped were the most common ways trappers changed effort in all regions. Changing the number of sets was the third most important way trappers reported they changed effort. Statewide, 60% of trappers reported some change in effort.



Did increasing your trapping effort result in a higher catch?

Statewide, an average of 55% of trappers reported that increasing their effort resulted in a higher catch. However, fewer than half of trappers in the Interior said increased effort resulted in increased catch and exactly half of Arctic & Western trappers saw profit in increasing effort. Southeast and Southcentral trappers had better than average success increasing their catch with increased effort, whereas Southwest trappers were right at the statewide average.



Target Species and Disposition of Furs

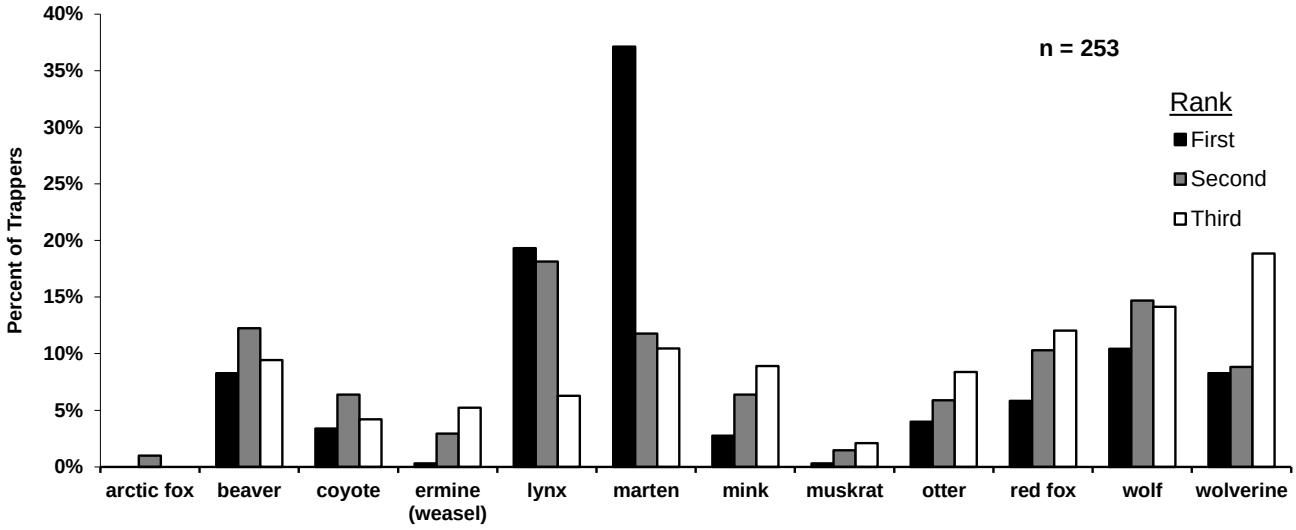
What was the most important species you were trying to catch?

The table below shows how each species ranked in order of importance by region, with 1 being most important and 11 being least important. Rank was calculated by totaling the number of trappers who ranked that species as one of the three most important species they were trying to catch. The number of trappers who responded is given in parentheses. Repeats of a rank indicate that one or more species tied for that rank. A dash indicates no trapper ranked that species as one of the most important.

Marten was once again the most important species statewide. Marten was the most important species in the Southeast and Southcentral regions and second in the Interior and Arctic & Western regions. Lynx was second most important statewide and targeted first in the Interior and Arctic & Western regions. Trappers in 3 regions ranked wolves in the top 3 or 4 species helping wolves rank third in importance statewide.

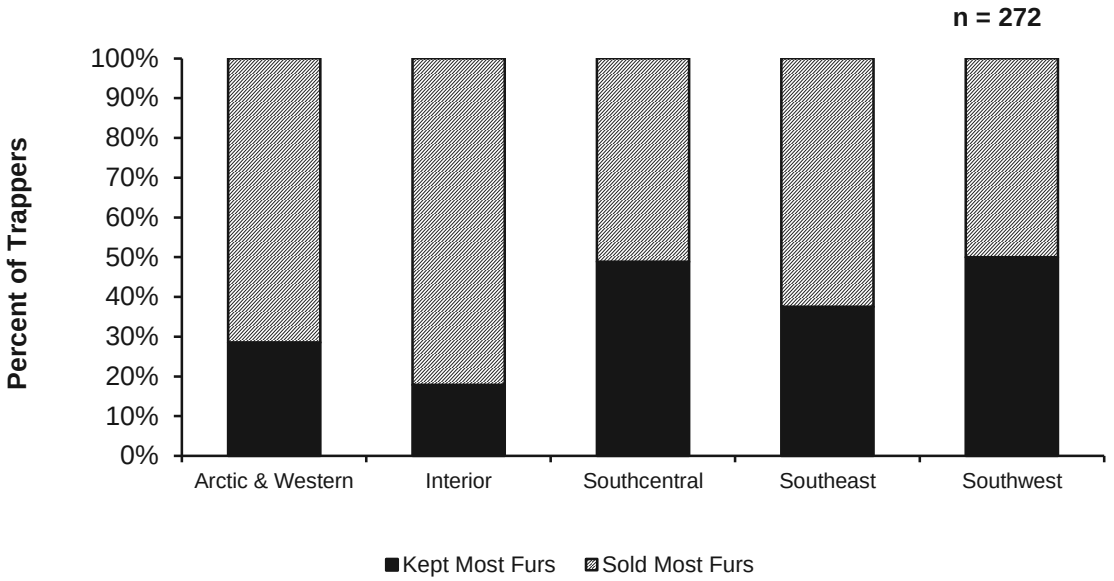
Species	Statewide (253)	Southeast (38)	Southcentral (85)	Southwest (24)	Interior (85)	Arctic & Western (21)
marten	1	1	1	6	2	5
lynx	2	8	2	5	1	1
wolf	3	5	4	3	3	6
wolverine	4	6	3	4	4	2
beaver	5	4	6	1	5	3
red fox	6	7	7	2	6	4
otter	7	3	8	7	8	7
mink	8	2	9	8	7	---
coyote	9	10	5	9	9	8
ermine (weasel)	10	8	10	10	10	10
muskrat	11	11	11	11	11	---
arctic fox	12	---	12	---	---	9

The graph below gives the percentage of trappers statewide who ranked that species as the first, second, or third most important species they were trying to target.



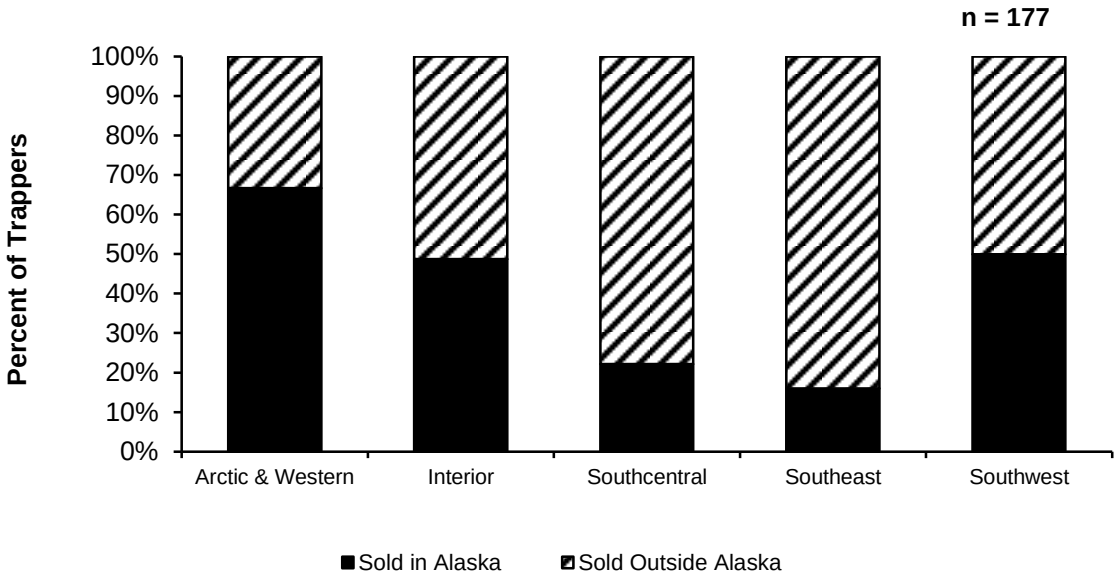
Did you keep or sell most of your furs?

Trappers in the Southcentral and Southwest regions split 50-50 whether they kept or sold most of their furs in the 2011-12 season. However, 82% of Interior trappers, 71% of Arctic & Western trappers, and 63% of Southeast trappers sold most of their furs. Statewide, 65% of trappers sold most of their furs.



Did you sell to a fur buyer in Alaska or outside of Alaska?

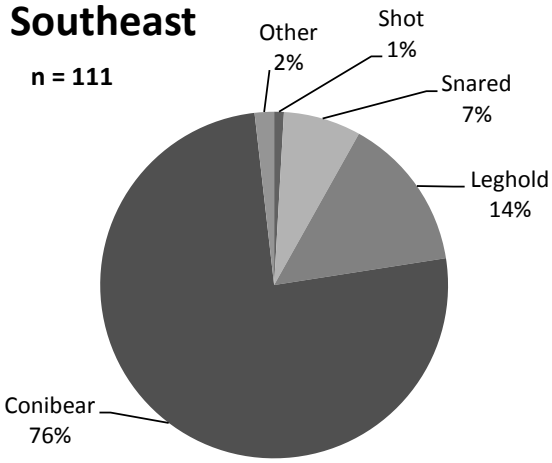
Of those who sold their furs, 84% of Southeast trappers and 78% of Southcentral trappers who responded to this question sold most of their furs to buyers outside Alaska. Interior and Southwest trappers split about 50-50 in whether they sold to buyers outside or within Alaska. Two-thirds of Arctic & Western trappers sold most furs to buyers within the state. Statewide, 61% sold most of their furs to buyers outside the state.



Beaver Harvest Methods

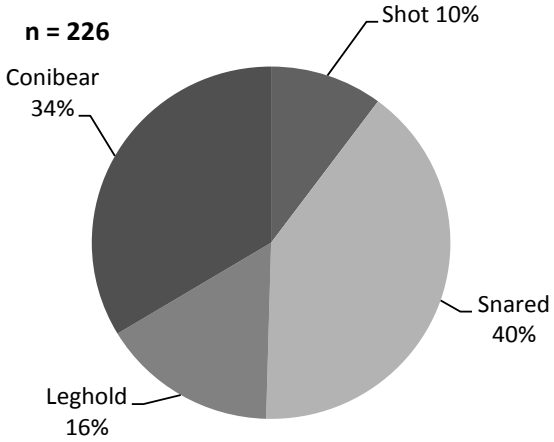
Southeast

n = 111



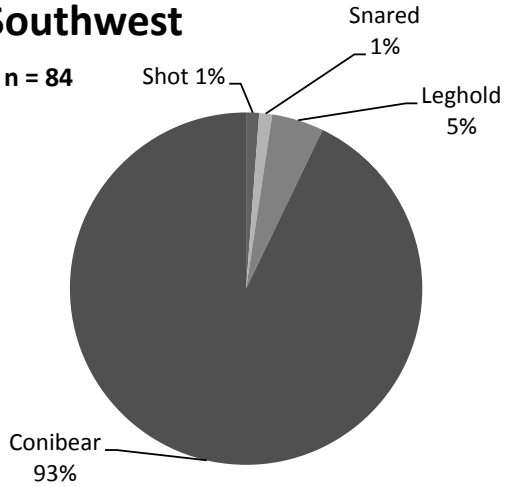
Southcentral

n = 226



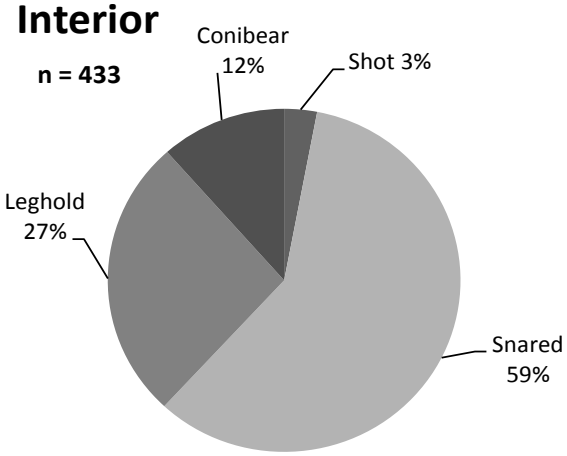
Southwest

n = 84



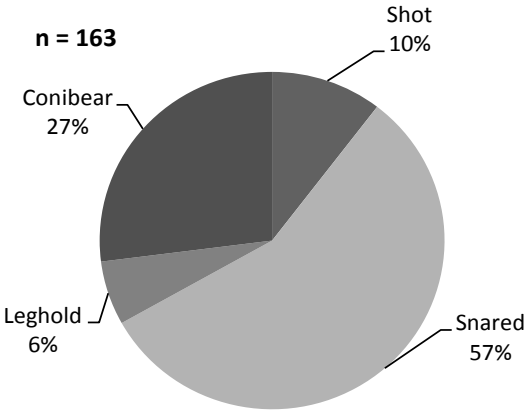
Interior

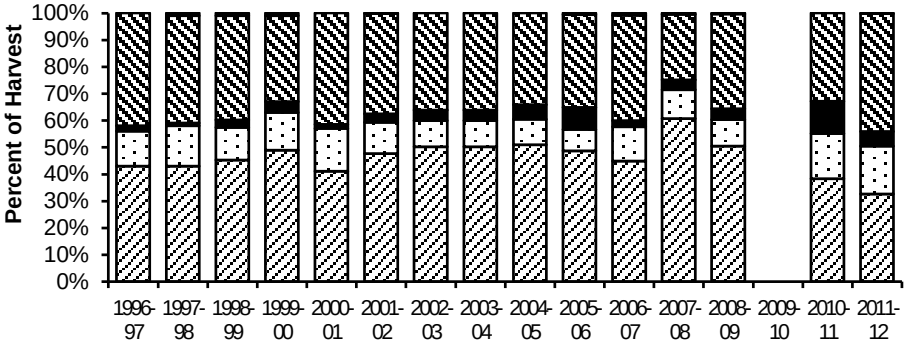
n = 433



Arctic & Western

n = 163

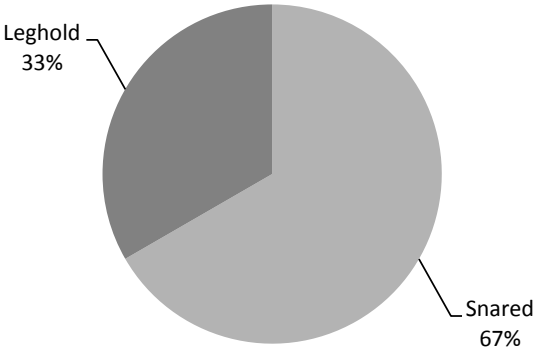




Coyote Harvest Methods

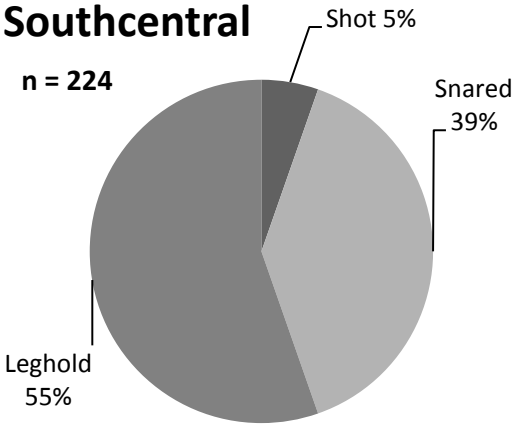
Southeast

n = 3



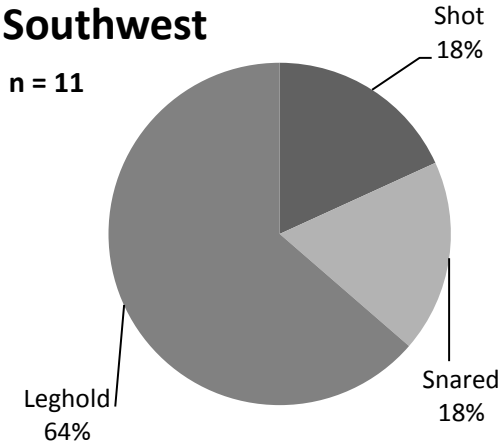
Southcentral

n = 224



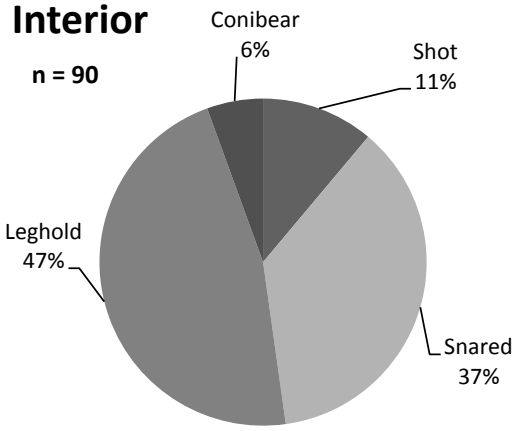
Southwest

n = 11



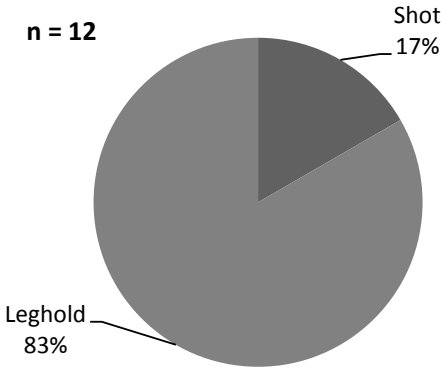
Interior

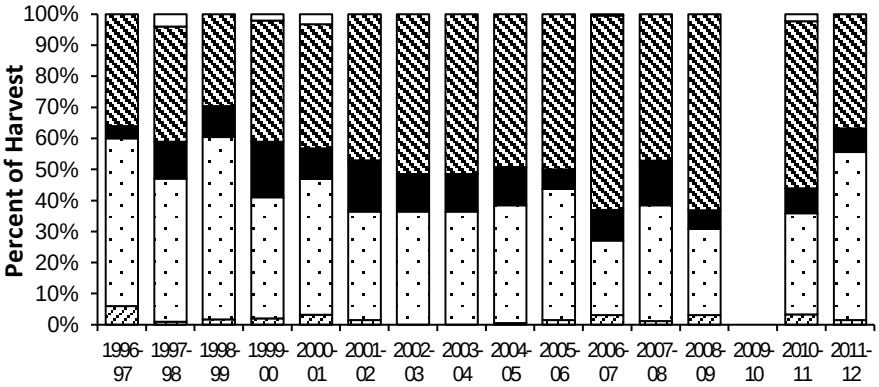
n = 90



Arctic & Western

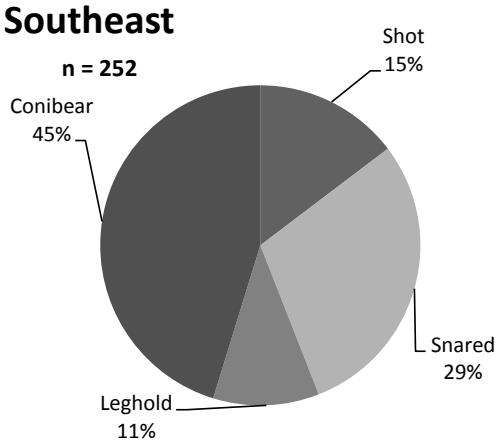
n = 12



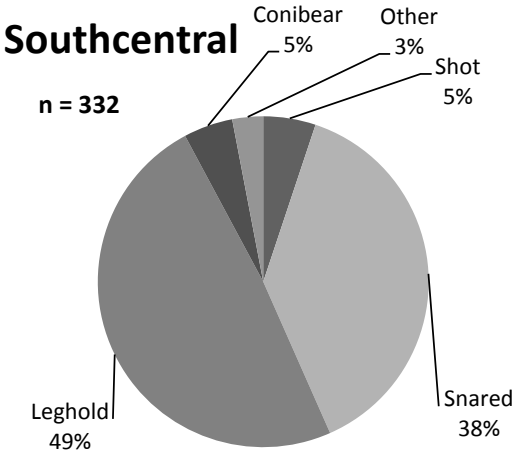


Fox Harvest Methods

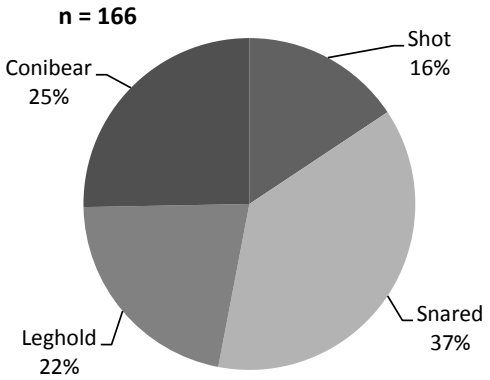
Southeast



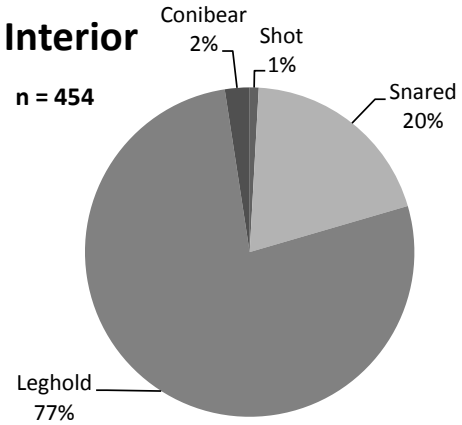
Southcentral



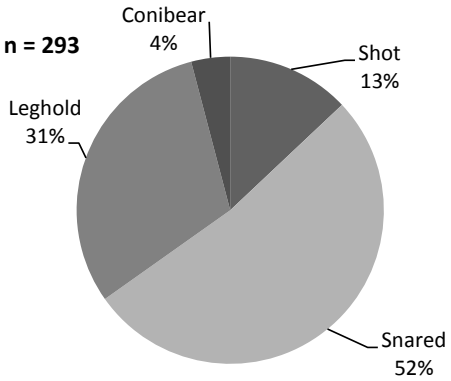
Southwest

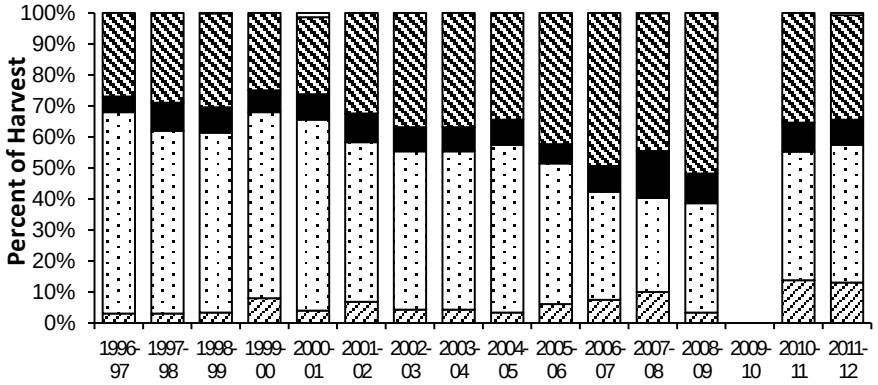


Interior

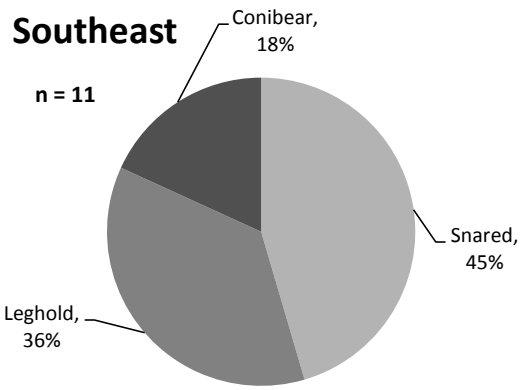


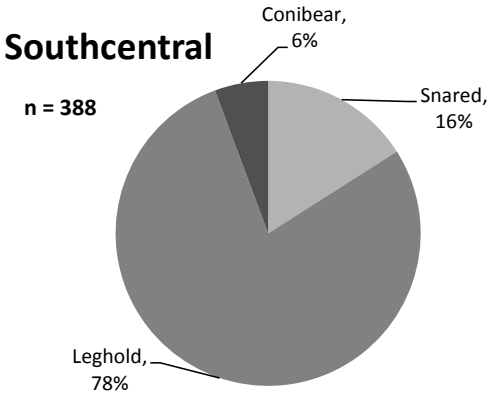
Arctic & Western

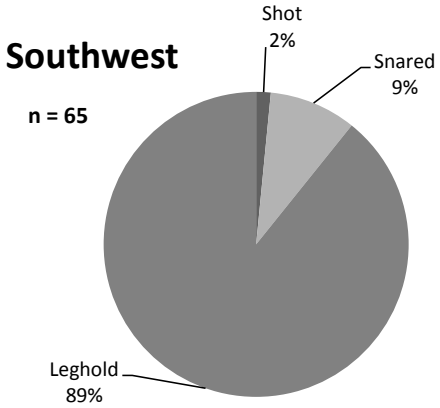


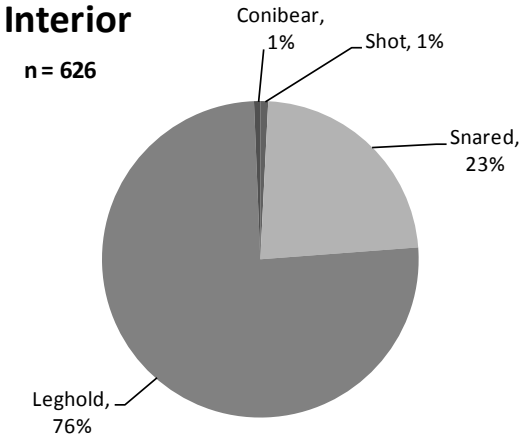


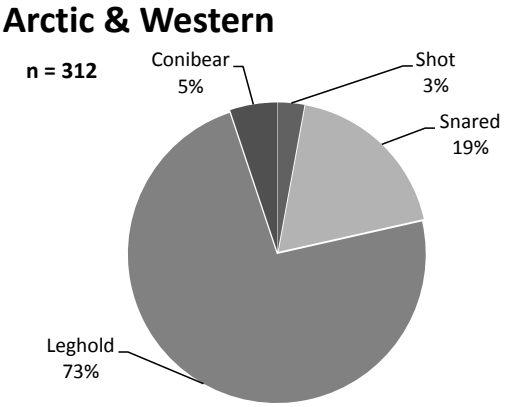
Lynx Harvest Methods

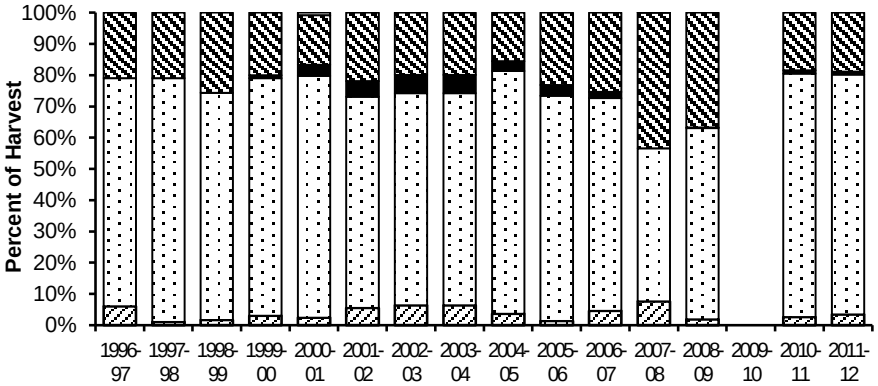








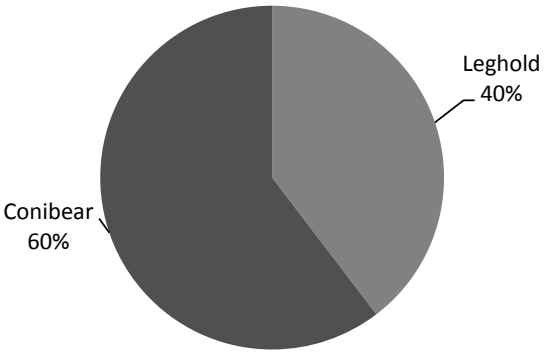




Marten Harvest Methods

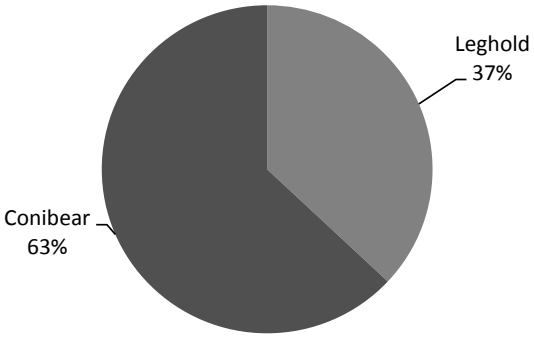
Southeast

n = 810



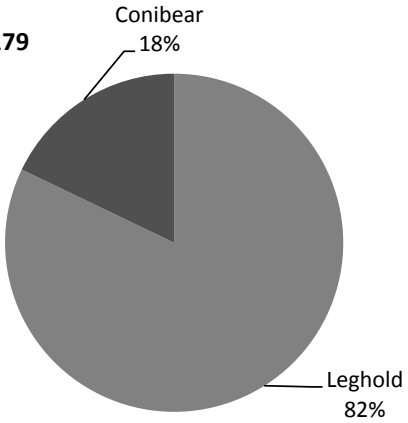
Southcentral

n = 1003



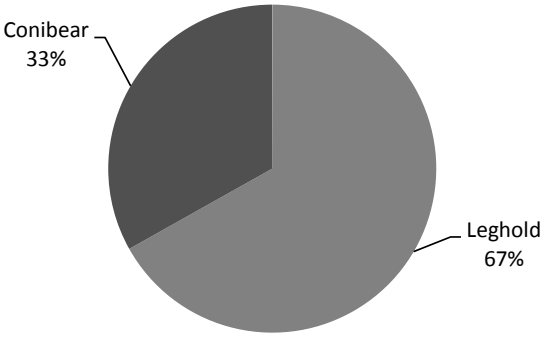
Southwest

n = 179



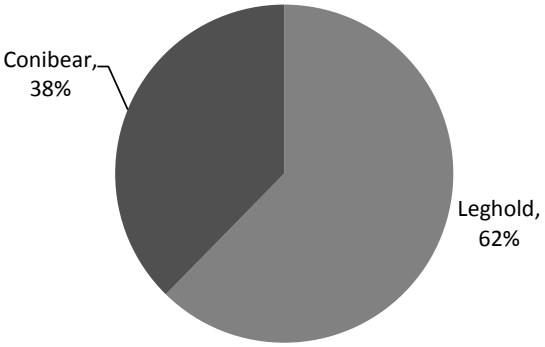
Interior

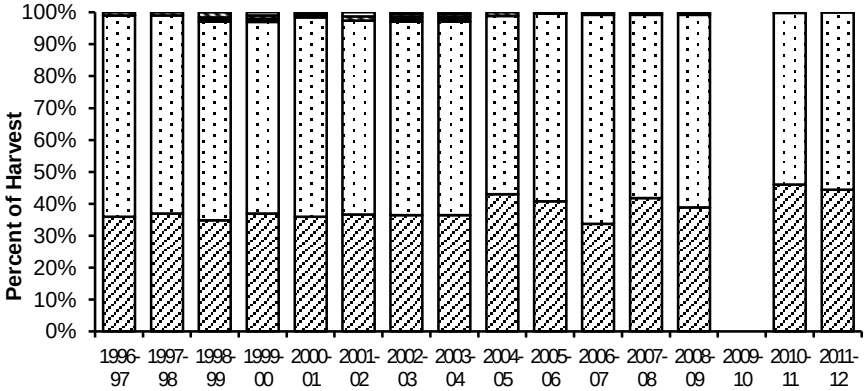
n = 2245



Arctic & Western

n = 247

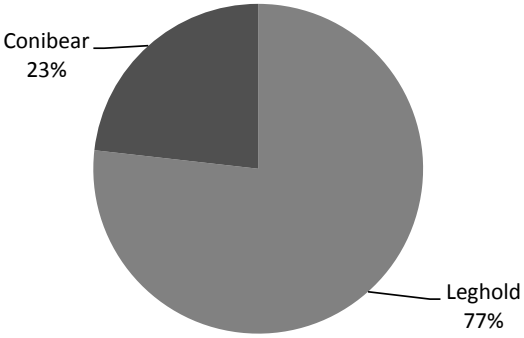




Mink Harvest Methods

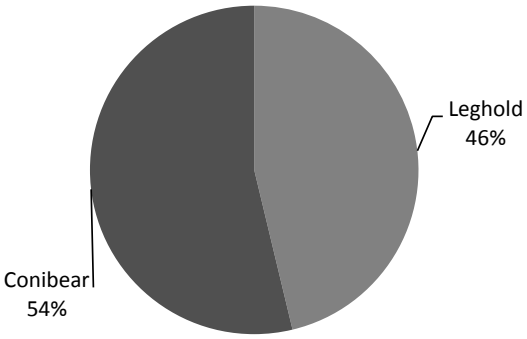
Southeast

n = 349



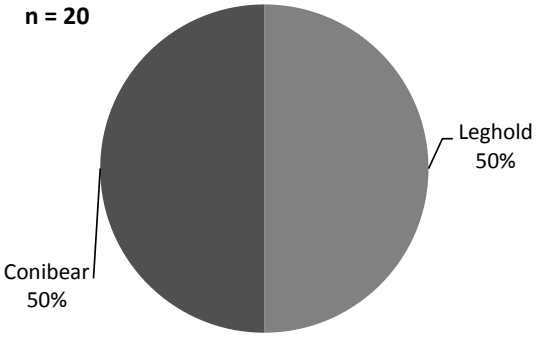
Southcentral

n = 80



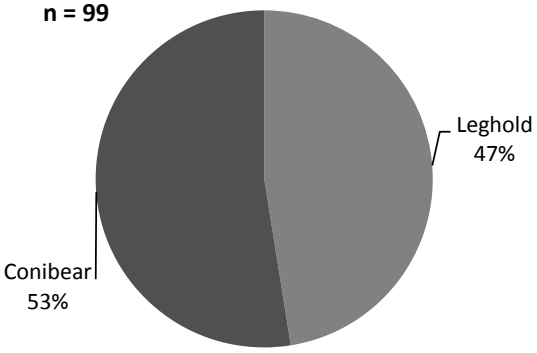
Southwest

n = 20



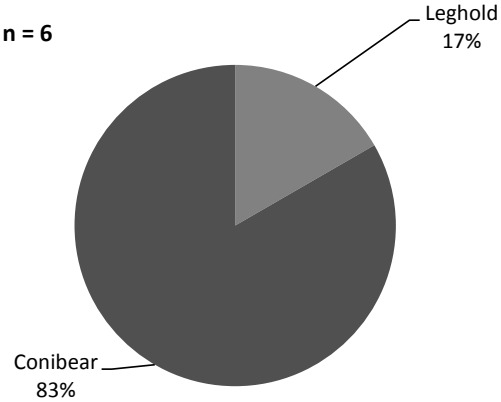
Interior

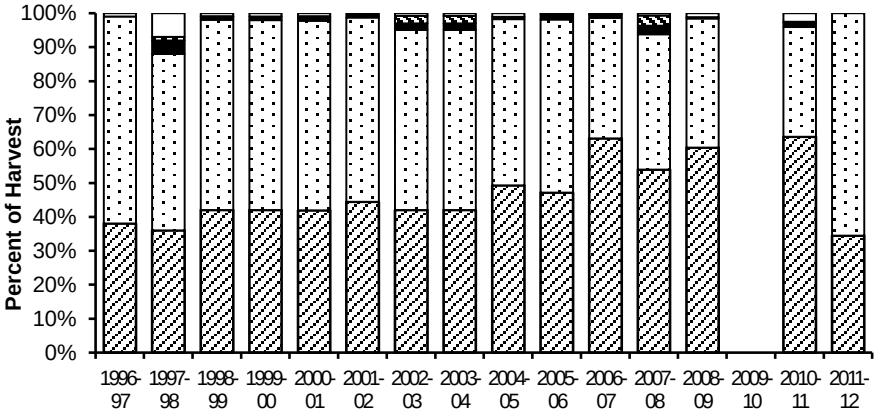
n = 99



Arctic & Western

n = 6

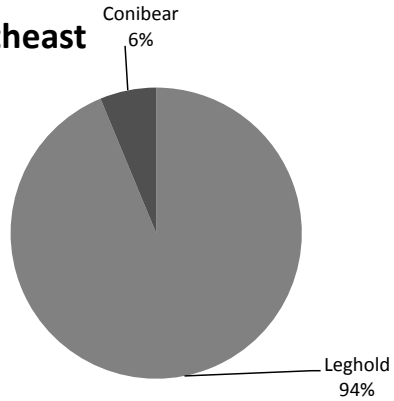




Muskrat Harvest Methods

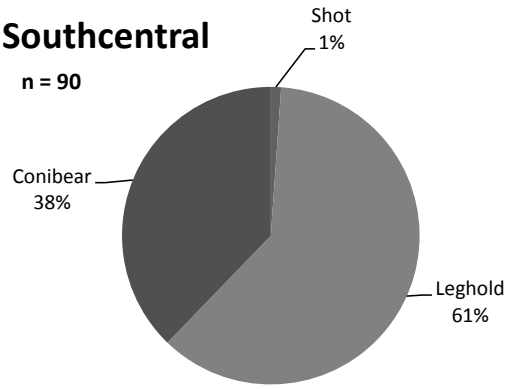
Southeast

n = 16



Southcentral

n = 90

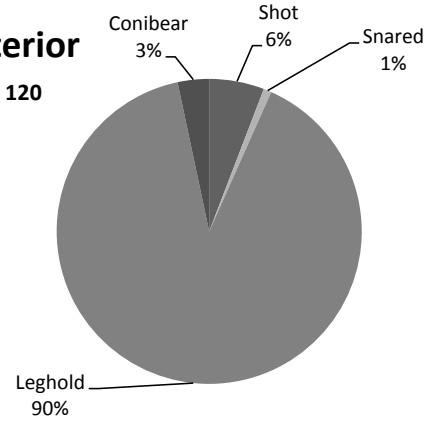


Southwest

No harvest reported

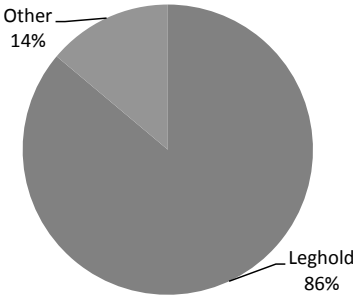
Interior

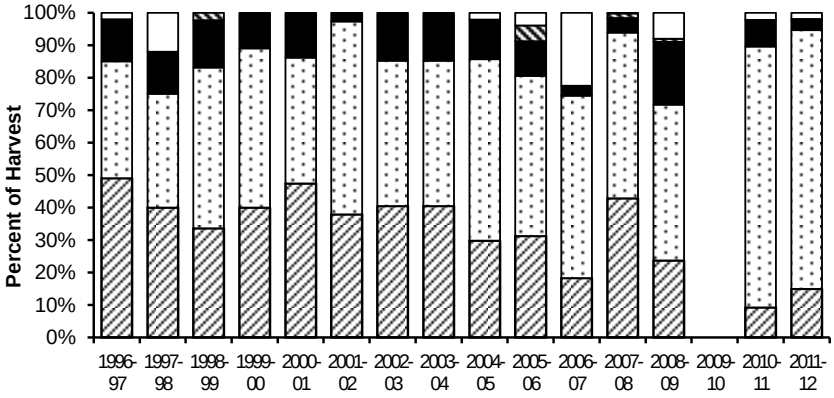
n = 120



Arctic & Western

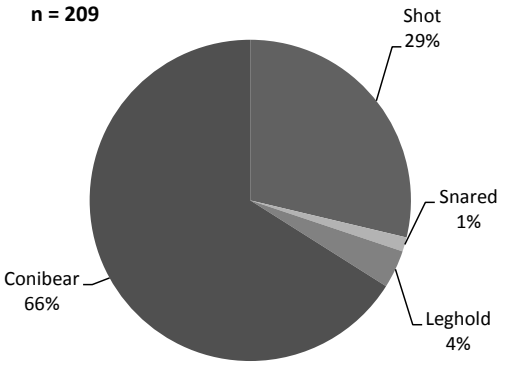
n = 36



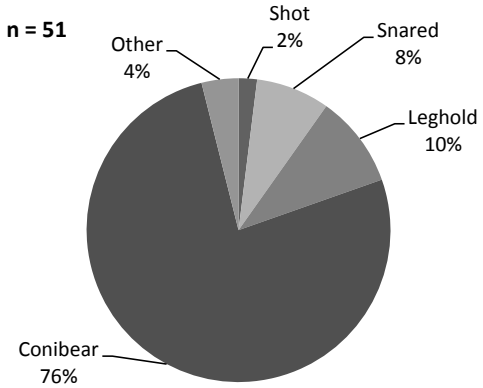


River Otter Harvest Methods

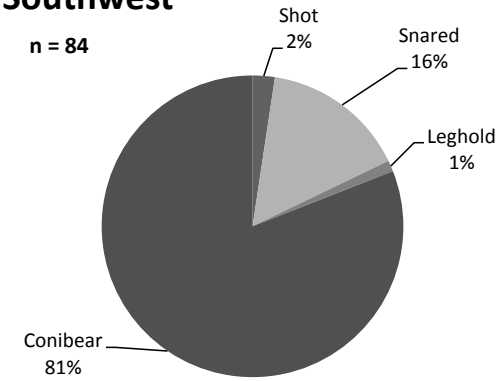
Southeast



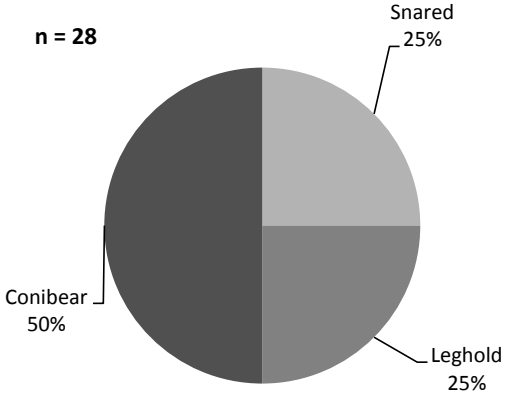
Southcentral



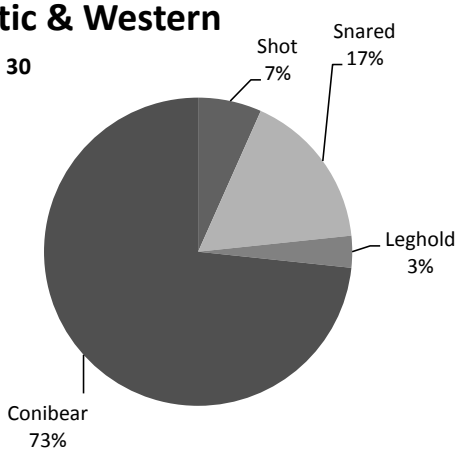
Southwest

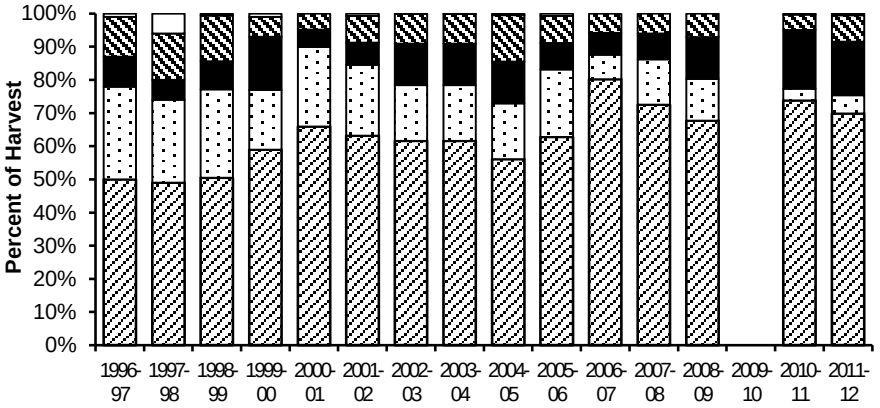


Interior



Arctic & Western

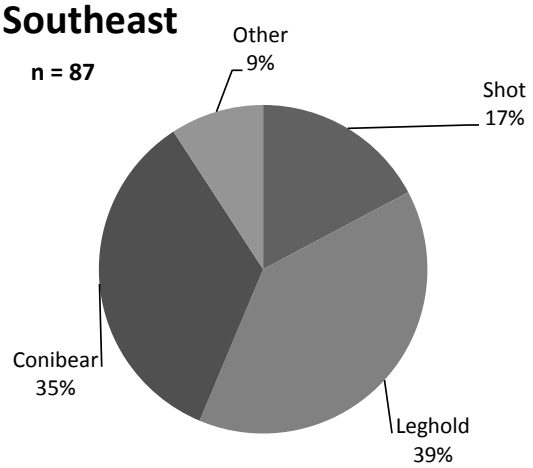




Squirrel Harvest Methods

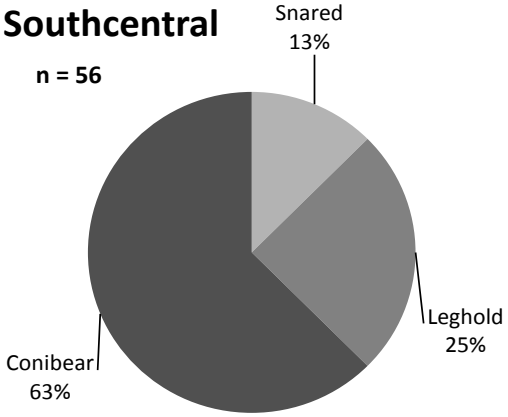
Southeast

n = 87



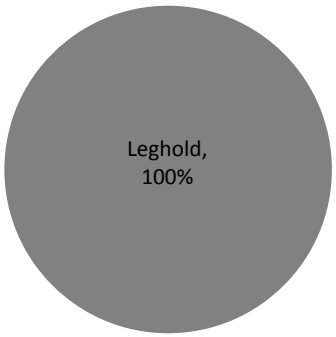
Southcentral

n = 56



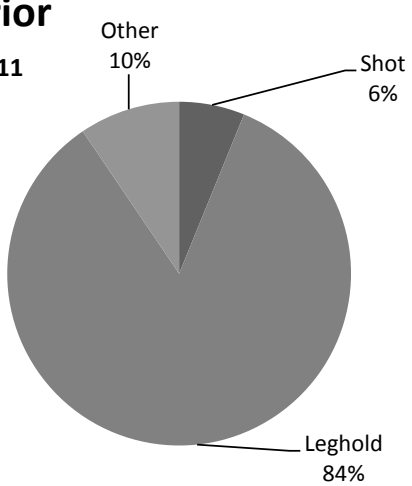
Southwest

n = 2



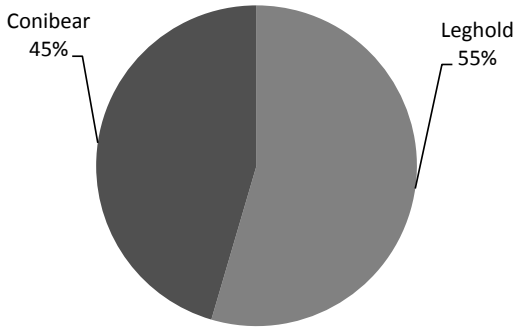
Interior

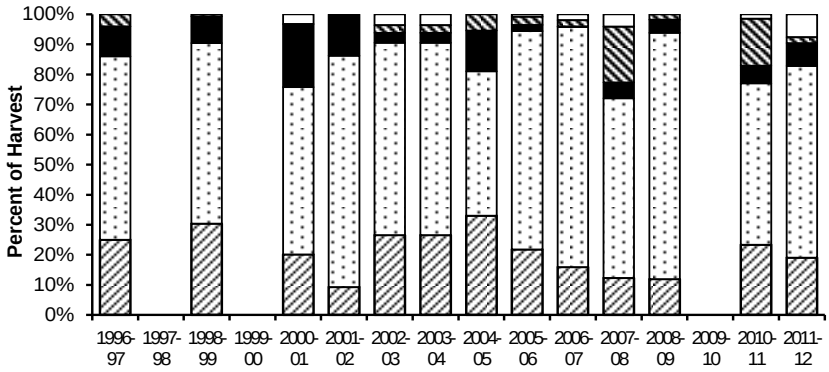
n = 211



Arctic & Western

n = 11

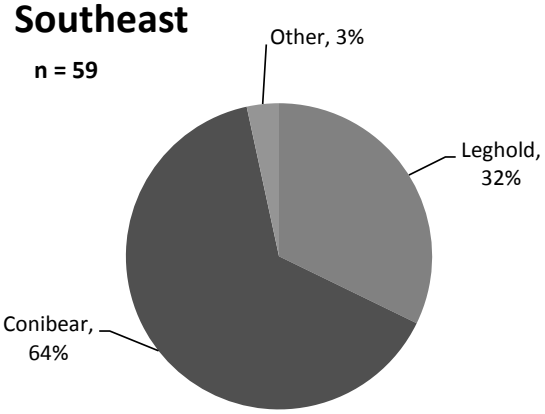




Weasel (Ermine) Harvest Methods

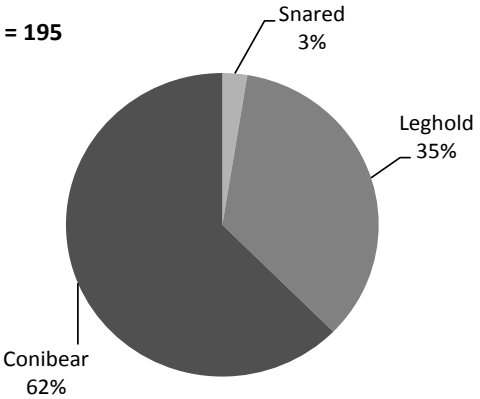
Southeast

n = 59



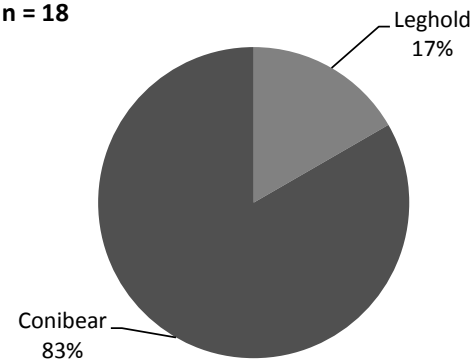
Southcentral

n = 195



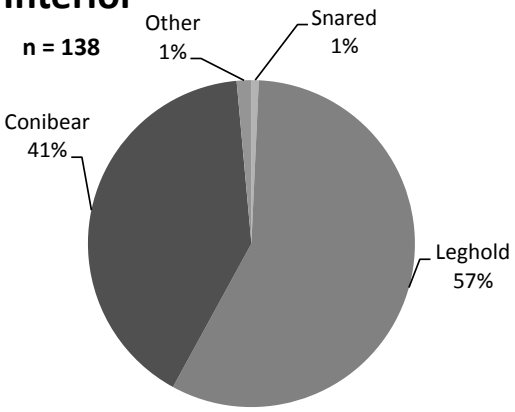
Southwest

n = 18



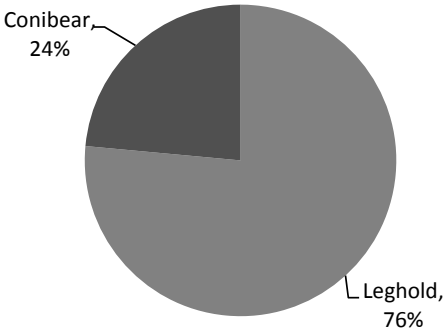
Interior

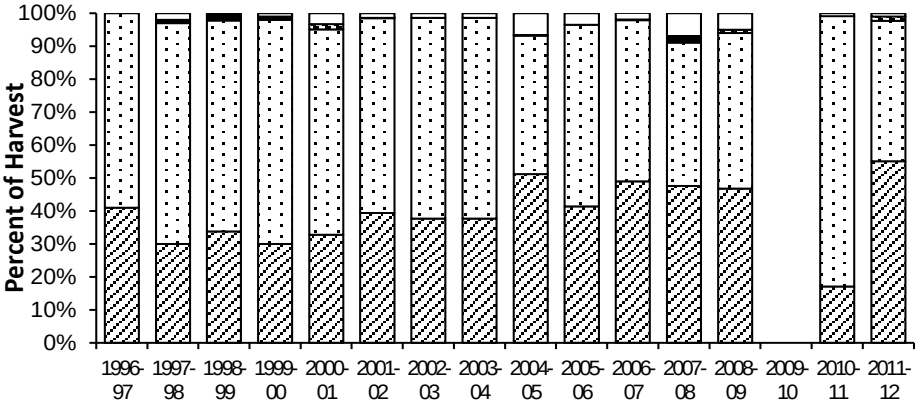
n = 138



Arctic & Western

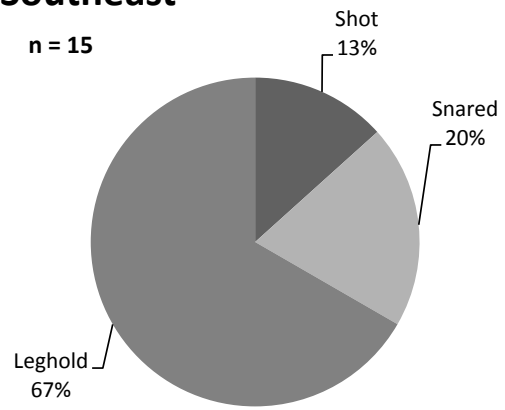
n = 17



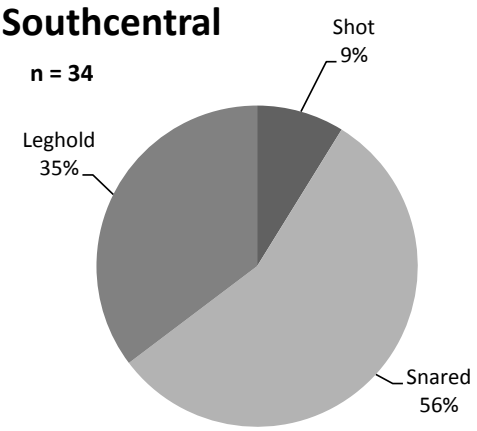


Wolf Harvest Methods

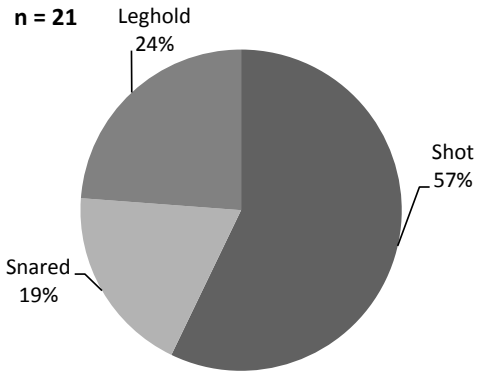
Southeast



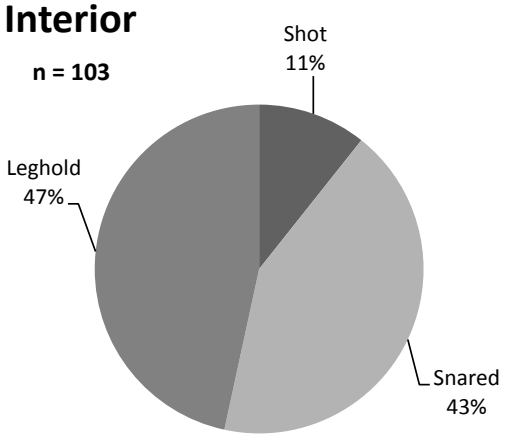
Southcentral



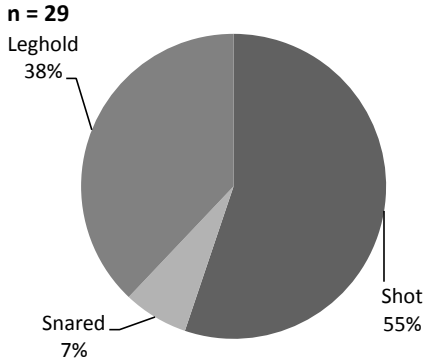
Southwest

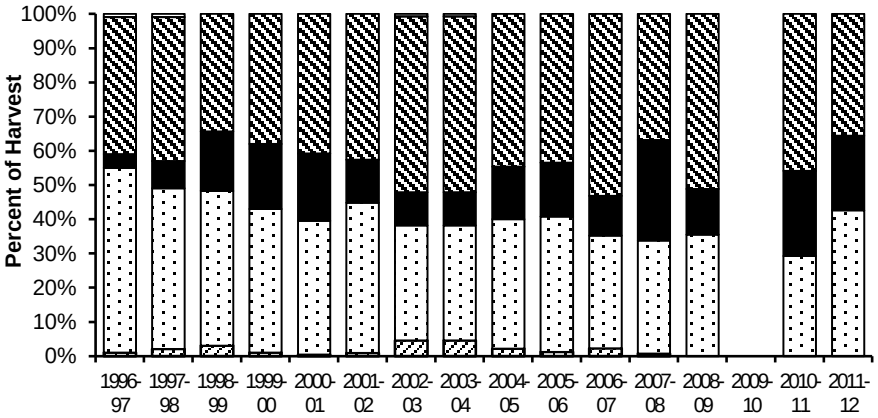


Interior



Arctic & Western

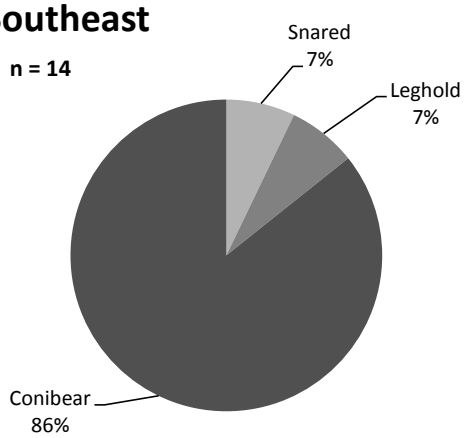




Wolverine Harvest Methods

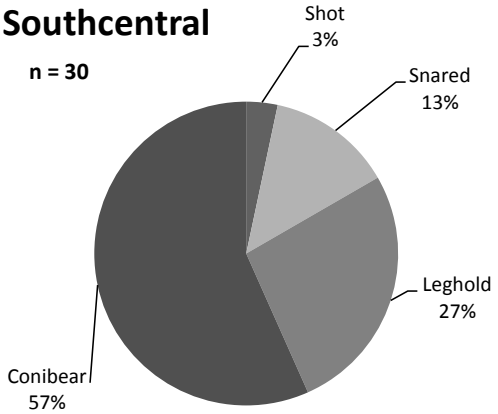
Southeast

n = 14



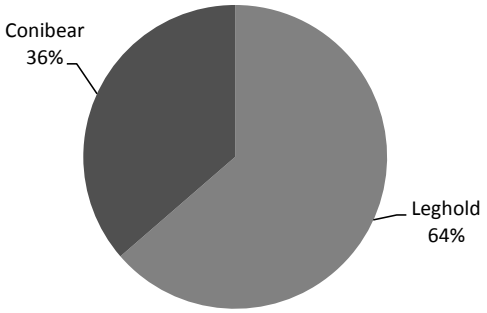
Southcentral

n = 30



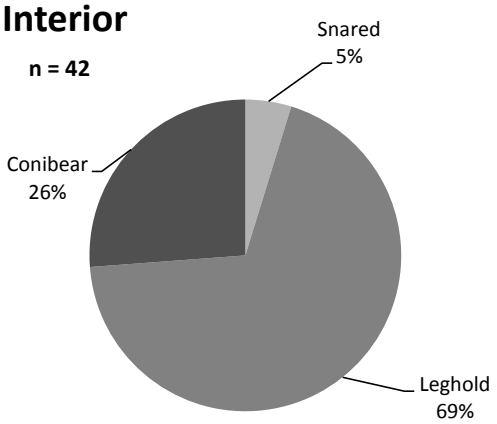
Southwest

n = 11



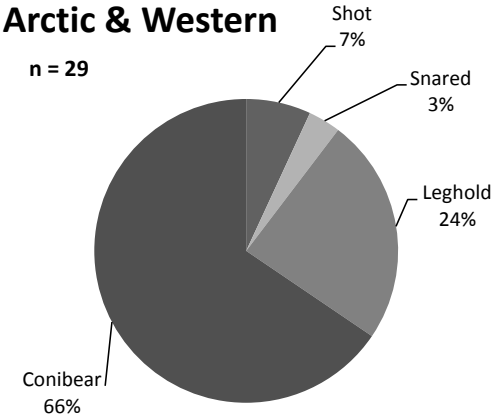
Interior

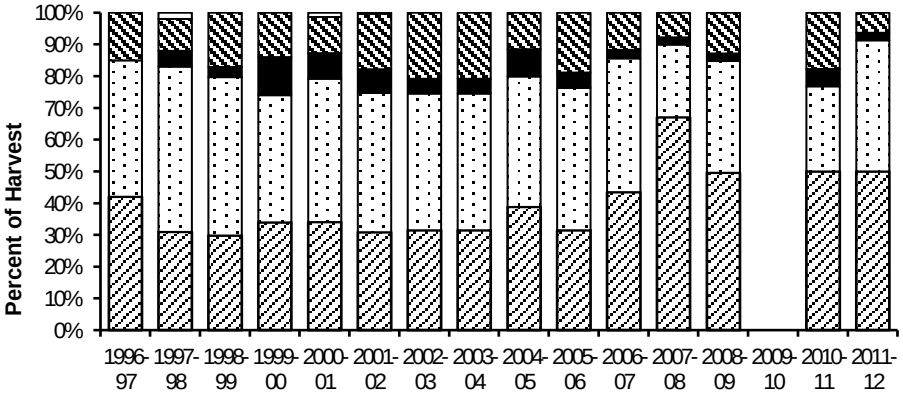
n = 42



Arctic & Western

n = 29





SPECIES RELATIVE ABUNDANCE AND POPULATION TRENDS

The species relative abundance index is based on work done with snowshoe hares in Alberta, Canada by Lloyd Keith and Christopher Brand. They compared the responses to a trapper questionnaire with their estimates of hare densities based on their own fieldwork and found there was a good relationship between these two measures. They developed an index for the responses received from trappers on the questionnaire. A numerical value was assigned to each of three responses: 1 = scarce, 2 = common, and 3 = abundant. The value of the abundance index was derived from a mathematical equation that expresses the cumulative response value of trappers in a given region as a percentage of the range of possible values:

$$\mathbf{I} = \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{R}_i - n \right) / \, 2n \right] \times 100$$

Where I = abundance index

R = numerical value (1 = scarce, 2 = common, 3 = abundant)

n = number of trappers reporting

The abundance index (I) ranges from 0% to 100%. Index values of 0–19% indicated animals were scarce, 20–50% indicated animals were common, and values greater than 50% indicated animals were abundant. In the following tables, we converted the index values to the appropriate category: scarce, common, or abundant.

We do not know if the same ranges of percentages are appropriate for animals in Alaska, because they were established for snowshoe hares in Alberta. However, this index does provide a way to generally compare trappers' interpretations of species abundance in a given area over time and can be very helpful when used in conjunction with other abundance indicators and sources of information.

The numerical trend index indicates if trappers felt animals were fewer, the same, or more numerous than they were the previous year. This index is slightly different than the relative abundance index. The trend index was calculated by assigning a 1 if the box for fewer was checked, 2 for same, and 3 for more animals. The average was then calculated for all trappers in an area. Since we don't have an independent measure of trend to compare the index values to as we did for relative abundance, it is necessary to select arbitrary ranges of values to classify the average opinion of trappers in an area. For purposes of this report, an average trend value of <1.67 represents fewer (-), a value >2.33 represents more (+), and intermediate values represent no change (n/c).

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southeast Alaska, 2011-12, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

Southeast Alaska								
	Ketchikan, Prince of Wales & Vicinity GMUs 1A, 2		Petersburg, Wrangell, Kupreanof & Vicinity GMUs 1B, 3		Juneau, Douglas, Haines, Yakutat GMUs 1CD, 5		Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagoff Islands GMU 4	
Furbearers:	Relative Abundance n = 11	Trend n = 11	Relative Abundance n = 6	Trend n = 6	Relative Abundance n = 9	Trend n = 9	Relative Abundance n = 10	Trend n = 9
Arctic Fox	not present		scarce	-	not present		scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Lynx	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+	scarce	-
Marten	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	common	n/c
Mink	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Muskrat	not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Red Fox	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Red Squirrel	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	abundant	+	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Prey:								
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Hare	scarce	n/c	not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	scarce	+	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c

Relative Abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southcentral Alaska, 2011-12, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

Southcentral Alaska								
	Copper River & Upper Susitna Basins GMUs 11, 13		Lower Susitna Basin GMUs 14, 16		Prince William Sound & North Gulf Coast GMU 6		Kenai Peninsula GMUs 7, 15	
Furbearers:	**Relative Abundance n = 23**	**Trend n = 22**	**Relative Abundance n = 32**	**Trend n = 31**	**Relative Abundance n = 9**	**Trend n = 8**	**Relative Abundance n = 17**	**Trend n = 16**
Arctic Fox	not present		not present		not present		not present	
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c
Lynx	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Marten	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Mink	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolf	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-
Prey:								
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Hare	common	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+	scarce	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Interior Alaska, 2011-12, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

Interior Alaska										
	Lower Tanana Basin GMUs 20ABCDF, 25C		Upper Tanana Basin GMUs 12, 20E		Upper Kuskokwim, Innoko & Nowitna GMUs 19, 21A		Middle Yukon & Koyukuk GMUs 21BCDE, 24		Upper Yukon Basin GMUs 25ABD, 26BC	
Furbearers:	**Relative Abundance n = 50**	**Trend n = 47**	**Relative Abundance n = 5**	**Trend n = 5**	**Relative Abundance n = 10**	**Trend n = 9**	**Relative Abundance n = 9**	**Trend n = 9**	**Relative Abundance n = 6**	**Trend n = 6**
Arctic Fox	scarce	n/c	not present		not present		not present		scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	common	n/c	common	+	scarce	n/c	not present	-	common	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	+	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	-	common	-	common	-	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Marten	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c
Mink	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
River Otter	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	common	+	common	-	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	+	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Prey:										
Hare	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	common	n/c
Grouse	scarce	-	scarce	-	common	-	abundant	n/c	common	-
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	-
Mice/Rodents	scarce	n/c	common	+	common	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southwest and Arctic & Western Alaska, 2011-12, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

	Southwest Alaska						Arctic & Western Alaska					
	Kodiak Archipelago GMU 8		Alaska Peninsula GMU 9		Bristol Bay Area GMU 17		Arctic GMUs 23, 26		Seward Peninsula GMU 22		Yukon Kuskokwim Delta GMU 18	
Furbearers:	Relative Abundance n = 6	Trend n = 6	Relative Abundance n = 2	Trend n = 2	Relative Abundance n = 12	Trend n = 13	Relative Abundance n = 3	Trend n = 3	Relative Abundance n = 7	Trend n = 7	Relative Abundance n = 10	Trend n = 9
Arctic Fox	not present		not present		not present		common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	not present		abundant	n/c	abundant	+
Coyote	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	+	common	n/c	common	-	common		common	-	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	-	common	+	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	-
Marten	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	not present		common	+	common	n/c
Mink	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	not present		common	n/c	common	-
Muskrat	scarce	-	common	n/c	scarce	-	not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Red Fox	common	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	not present		scarce	-	common	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	not present		common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	common	-	scarce	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-
Prey:												
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	not present		scarce	+	common	n/c
Hare	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	+	not present		common	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	+	common		common	+	abundant	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations by region and statewide for 2011-12, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

	Southeast		Southcentral		Southwest		Interior		Arctic & Western	
Furbearers:	**Relative Abundance n = 36**	**Trend n = 35**	**Relative Abundance n = 87**	**Trend n = 77**	**Relative Abundance n = 20**	**Trend n = 21**	**Relative Abundance n = 81**	**Trend n = 82**	**Relative Abundance n = 20**	**Trend n = 19**
Arctic Fox	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	-	common	n/c
Marten	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Mink	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	-
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Red Fox	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Prey:										
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Hare	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	-	common	n/c
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	common	n/c	abundant	n/c

FURBEARER HARVEST REPORT

Only 4 of the 14 species defined as furbearers are required to be sealed throughout Alaska; lynx, otter, wolf, and wolverine. Marten and beaver are required to be sealed in some units but not statewide. Consequently, information on the numbers, distribution, and harvest of many furbearers is limited. The following tables give the numbers of each species harvested in each GMU subunit as reported on the 2011-12 Trapper Questionnaire. Letter Z means there are no subunits or none was specified.

	Subunit	*n*	arctic fox	beaver	coyote	ermine (weasel)	lynx	marten	mink	muskrat	otter	red fox	squirrel	wolf	wolverine
Southeast	01A	4	0	0	0	10	0	78	43	0	8	0	20	2	0
	01B	2	0	0	0	12	0	98	11	0	4	0	3	0	0
	01C	4	0	4	1	14	0	59	33	0	36	0	0	0	0
	01D	3	0	17	0	5	0	34	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
	02Z	8	0	15	0	10	0	302	40	0	57	0	0	0	0
	03Z	3	0	0	0	2	0	5	19	0	23	0	0	10	0
	04Z	12	0	9	0	9	0	428	283	27	88	0	50	0	0
	05A	2	0	2	0	10	0	44	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Region 1 Totals		**38**	**0**	**47**	**1**	**72**	**0**	**1048**	**431**	**27**	**218**	**0**	**73**	**13**	**0**
Southcentral	06A	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	0
	06B	2	0	0	0	9	0	10	6	0	1	0	0	0	0
	06C	4	0	20	3	16	0	15	6	0	15	0	0	0	3
	06D	3	0	0	0	7	0	10	7	0	17	0	0	0	0
	07Z	5	0	3	0	24	0	30	13	1	0	0	14	0	0
	11Z	8	0	12	7	6	53	28	0	0	1	17	9	8	1
	13A	11	0	4	18	1	145	22	0	2	0	22	0	0	4
	13B	5	0	49	23	28	68	48	5	6	4	47	0	0	1
	13C	6	0	4	8	10	50	73	2	0	6	20	0	9	1
	13D	6	0	0	32	57	53	145	8	16	4	44	14	0	4
	13E	5	0	20	0	0	7	84	1	0	1	23	3	0	6
	13Z	3	0	0	2	0	29	8	2	0	0	12	0	1	1
	14A	13	0	15	10	14	1	34	2	17	5	20	0	0	0
	14B	8	0	5	26	4	1	45	11	30	0	14	0	0	0
	14C	3	0	0	0	12	0	5	0	0	1	0	2	0	2
	15A	6	0	8	8	0	14	0	1	0	1	0	10	2	0
	15B	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15C	3	0	0	21	3	34	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
	16A	3	0	57	3	9	0	32	7	0	6	5	0	0	2
	16B	10	0	47	18	18	0	127	2	0	1	6	25	1	1
	16Z	2	0	0	0	8	0	3	3	0	0	0	10	0	0
Southwest	08Z	7	12	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	41	0	0	0
	09B	1	0	0	0	0	13	11	0	0	0	5	0	0	2
	09C	1	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	24	0	0	0
	17A	3	0	15	0	0	4	0	0	0	10	1	0	1	2
	17B	4	0	32	0	0	1	18	1	0	0	14	0	8	3
	17C	7	0	56	3	2	1	134	3	0	24	90	0	3	9
Region 2&4 Totals		**132**	**12**	**359**	**183**	**228**	**475**	**882**	**89**	**75**	**155**	**405**	**87**	**33**	**42**

Region	Subunit	*n*	arctic fox	beaver	coyote	ermine (weasel)	lynx	marten	mink	muskrat	otter	red fox	squirrel	wolf	wolverine
Interior	12Z	4	0	0	5	10	5	86	1	0	0	5	0	15	2
	19A	4	0	52	0	2	4	185	1	0	6	22	0	0	3
	19B	1	0	1	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
	19D	4	0	23	3	8	13	209	4	0	1	8	0	9	3
	20A	13	0	12	43	11	135	26	10	0	0	12	30	8	5
	20B	26	0	149	19	43	47	495	25	18	8	45	9	42	2
	20C	11	0	50	19	6	116	97	10	0	2	18	0	11	7
	20D	10	0	17	81	9	10	65	2	4	0	27	50	2	2
	20E	3	0	0	2	3	16	97	1	0	0	1	0	7	2
	20F	4	0	0	0	0	4	77	0	0	0	6	0	2	2
	20Z	1	0	10	0	0	1	120	4	0	2	1	0	0	2
	21B	1	0	1	0	2	7	147	0	0	0	1	20	8	3
	21D	5	0	42	0	4	3	315	36	0	4	26	0	15	2
	21E	3	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	8
	24A	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	24B	1	0	25	0	0	0	30	0	2	0	6	0	0	0
	24D	1	0	0	0	1	0	55	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
	25A	1	0	0	1	6	54	73	1	10	0	1	106	3	3
	25B	1	0	12	1	4	9	76	1	0	0	2	4	3	4
	25C	4	0	9	0	0	25	35	0	90	1	11	0	1	3
	25D	7	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Region 3 Totals		**106**	**0**	**409**	**174**	**110**	**450**	**2235**	**97**	**124**	**24**	**194**	**219**	**131**	**58**
Arctic & Western	18Z	11	1	102	11	12	176	36	5	6	24	219	5	8	16
	22A	2	0	11	0	3	48	20	2	26	2	66	2	3	5
	22B	3	1	9	0	4	52	26	2	0	2	16	0	20	16
	22C	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0
	22D	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	23Z	3	0	20	0	8	61	127	5	0	0	25	0	1	4
	26A	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Region 5 Totals		**23**	**2**	**147**	**11**	**27**	**341**	**209**	**14**	**32**	**28**	**347**	**7**	**33**	**44**
Statewide Total		**299**	**14**	**962**	**369**	**437**	**1266**	**4374**	**631**	**258**	**425**	**946**	**386**	**210**	**144**

It would be helpful to know what proportion of the total harvest the questionnaire numbers represent. For species that require sealing, the number sealed represents our best information about the statewide harvest. The table below gives the harvest totals reported on the questionnaire as a percentage of the total number sealed. Assuming the proportions for species that are not required to be sealed also fall within the ranges observed below, the totals reported above represent roughly 1/6 to 1/3 of the statewide harvest of species.

Questionnaire Totals as Percent of Number Sealed

Region	Beaver	Lynx	Marten	Otter	Wolf	Wolverine	Average
Arctic & Western		33%		24%	32%	41%	32%
Interior		30%		39%	24%	25%	29%
Southcentral		31%		28%	12%	25%	24%
Southeast	16%		28%	35%	8%		22%
Southwest		18%		5%	5%	19%	12%
Statewide		28%		26%	16%	27%	24%

FURBEARER SEALING RECORDS SUMMARY

Sealing refers to the placement of an official marker or locking tag (seal) by an authorized department representative on an animal hide and/or skull. The sealing process may also involve recording biological information about the animal and the conditions under it was taken, taking measurements, and collecting biological samples. Lynx, river otter, wolf and wolverine are required to be sealed statewide; marten and beaver only in certain Game Management Units. The harvest totals reported below are based on fur sealing records. Numbers reported here may differ from those in previous reports because additional sealing forms have been turned in.

		Reported Harvest from Sealing Records					
Species	**Region**	**2006-07**	**2007-08**	**2008-09**	**2009-10**	**2010-11**	**2011-12**
Beaver*	Arctic & Western	109	33	21	23	11	3
	Interior	57	31	4	127	12	1
	Southcentral & Southwest	1078	945	991	1096	1164	851
	Southeast	104	393	215	415	265	291
	Total Beaver	1348	1402	1231	1661	1452	1146
Lynx	Arctic & Western	211	165	296	750	728	944
	Interior	2919	3911	5373	3615	2122	1513
	Southcentral & Southwest	471	782	1455	2160	2446	1594
	Southeast	2	0	8	8	4	4
	Total Lynx	3603	4858	7132	6533	5300	4055
Marten**	Arctic & Western	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Interior	2	0	2	160	20	41
	Southcentral & Southwest	1438	995	2117	1372	879	1364
	Southeast	4623	2696	2488	1795	2530	3758
	Total Marten	6063	3691	4607	3328	3429	5163
Otter	Arctic & Western	257	58	100	196	134	119
	Interior	123	82	77	106	70	61
	Southcentral & Southwest	706	518	468	441	540	485
	Southeast	363	179	288	248	528	619
	Total Otter	1449	837	933	991	1272	1284
Wolf	Arctic & Western	99	151	112	142	227	102
	Interior	546	512	668	499	438	557
	Southcentral & Southwest	393	454	365	288	341	421
	Southeast	143	107	150	134	160	168
	Total Wolf	1181	1224	1295	1063	1166	1248
Wolverine	Arctic & Western	65	85	66	95	139	108
	Interior	257	188	243	252	220	231
	Southcentral & Southwest	205	229	184	225	219	189
	Southeast	16	22	21	17	25	20
	Total Wolverine	543	524	514	589	603	548

*Beaver are required to be sealed in Units 1–11, 13–15, and 17.

**Marten are required to be sealed in Game Management Units 1–7 and 14–16.

WOLF HARVEST METHODS

The following table is compiled from mandatory wolf-sealing certificates. The "Other" category includes wolves taken under same-day airborne predator control programs.

Season	Region	Ground Shooting	Trapping	Snaring	Other or Unknown	Total Wolves Sealed
2004-05	Arctic & Western	155	64	15	16	250
	Interior	137	136	232	133	638
	S.central & S.west	154	88	91	175	508
	Southeast	39	62	60	1	162
	Total	**485**	**350**	**398**	**325**	**1558**
2005-06	Arctic & Western	116	15	33	9	173
	Interior	122	129	224	79	554
	S.central & S.west	193	93	96	89	471
	Southeast	56	57	43	0	156
	Total	**487**	**294**	**396**	**177**	**1354**
2006-07	Arctic & Western	55	14	16	14	99
	Interior	112	151	244	39	546
	S.central & S.west	170	70	83	70	393
	Southeast	25	38	15	65	143
	Total	**362**	**273**	**358**	**188**	**1181**
2007-08	Arctic & Western	114	17	18	2	151
	Interior	117	91	179	78	465
	S.central & S.west	216	78	96	91	481
	Southeast	53	36	18	0	107
	Total	**500**	**222**	**311**	**171**	**1204**
2008-09	Arctic & Western	75	7	16	14	112
	Interior	122	152	213	181	668
	S.central & S.west	131	68	78	88	365
	Southeast	57	65	27	1	150
	Total	**385**	**292**	**334**	**284**	**1295**
2009-10	Arctic & Western	119	18	4	1	142
	Interior	108	144	201	46	499
	S.central & S.west	120	59	71	38	288
	Southeast	45	56	31	2	134
	Total	**392**	**277**	**307**	**87**	**1063**
2010-11	Arctic & Western	172	23	26	1	227
	Interior	96	134	157	49	438
	S.central & S.west	88	45	78	117	341
	Southeast	46	69	44	0	160
	Total	**402**	**271**	**305**	**167**	**1166**
2011-12	Arctic & Western	115	18	13	0	146
	Interior	97	113	201	102	513
	S.central & S.west	230	54	54	83	421
	Southeast	53	79	36	0	168
	Total	**495**	**264**	**304**	**185**	**1248**

FUR ACQUISITION AND EXPORT

The following table summarizes data from the "Report of Acquisition of Furs and Hides" filled out by Alaska fur buyers (dealers) and the "Raw Fur Skin Export Permit" (the blue card everyone must fill out when sending raw furs out of state) by regulatory year. Prior to 2010-11 only Raw Fur Skin Export Permits that were filled out by individuals (not dealers) were included in the furs exported totals. Beginning in 2010-11 the raw furs exported column includes exports by dealers as well as individuals. These reports are a general indicator of harvest trends but are not actual records of the number of furbearers harvested in a trapping season. Both reports may include furs harvested in previous years, and many trappers keep their furs for tanning and use at home. In addition, some people may not fill out the required forms. If you want more information about fur harvest trends, contact your regional or statewide furbearer biologist. Totals for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 regulatory years have been revised from those in previous years' reports to reassign some records which were mistakenly attributed to the wrong regulatory year.

2009–2011 Fur Acquisition and Export

	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	Raw Furs Exported	Furs Acquired by Alaskan Dealers	Raw Furs Exported	Furs Acquired by Alaskan Dealers	Raw Furs Exported	Furs Acquired by Alaskan Dealers
Beaver	1731	1406	387	1113	2352	571
Coyote	226	111	97	329	371	184
Fox, Blue	6	0	1	1	4	0
Fox, Cross	212	78	48	183	279	108
Fox, Red	996	566	371	1027	1757	1026
Fox, Silver	70	4	1	43	64	5
Fox, White	72	7	1	29	114	14
Lynx	2606	2772	2157	3340	3435	2605
Marten	9122	10003	6836	8378	10967	12270
Mink	846	648	418	1236	1180	1054
Muskrat	1624	1112	1240	900	2219	1654
Other	296	207	25	73	286	41
Otter, Land	469	150	332	872	1081	715
Red Squirrel	175	170	277	410	455	120
Weasel	455	421	296	453	754	385
Wolf	264	50	91	287	521	201
Wolverine	124	60	63	169	262	125
Grand Total	**19,294**	**17,765**	**12,641**	**18,843**	**26,101**	**21,078**

COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING FURS

Average Prices Paid for Raw Furs

Prices from the two major fur auction houses (North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction Inc.) were averaged to produce the 2011-12 prices in this table. Top prices were also from fur auctions. All species of foxes were added together for this table

	Average Fur Price					Top Price
Species	**2006-07**	**2008-09**	**2009-10**	**2010-11**	**2011-12**	**2011-12**
Beaver	$20.71	$20.11	$12.83	$17.82	$32.56	$230.00
Coyote	$43.67	$24.33	$36.13	$52.90	$65.99	$350.00
Fox	$23.10	$21.42	$26.22	$33.55	$52.82	$400.00
Lynx	$126.34	$94.53	$127.50	$149.64	$179.78	$550.00
Marten	$56.93	$41.68	$32.92	$51.07	$108.78	$380.00
Mink (wild)	$17.84	$10.18	$12.62	$16.78	$22.83	$160.00
Muskrat	$5.00	$3.19	$7.73	$7.22	$9.97	$38.00
River Otter	$58.69	$33.11	$43.65	$58.84	$86.76	$170.00
Squirrel	$1.31	$1.20	$1.50	$1.06	$0.97	$1.60
Weasel	$7.55	$3.49	$3.77	$3.49	$3.57	$10.00
Wolf	$121.38	$144.90	$98.69	$150.67	$245.29	$920.00
Wolverine	$220.80	$234.00	$227.80	$273.50	$269.95	$500.00

Minimum Estimated Fur Value

The following table summarizes the minimum total estimated value of furs trapped during the 2011-12 trapping season. This table is intended to provide an estimate of fur values in Alaska and does not represent fur revenue. Average fur auction prices were used to calculate fur value. The number of furs was taken from sealing records for beaver, lynx, marten, river otter, wolf, and wolverine. That means for beaver and marten this table only includes animals harvested from a portion of the state. The number of furs for the unsealed species was calculated by adding the number of furs acquired by dealers plus the number of furs exported by hunters and trappers. All species of foxes were added together for this table.

2011-12 Fur Value in Alaska

Species	Total Number	Average North American Price	Total Estimated Value
Beaver	1,146	$32.56	$37,316
Coyote	555	$65.99	$36,624
Fox	3,371	$52.82	$178,039
Lynx	4,055	$179.78	$728,998
Marten	5,163	$108.78	$561,631
Mink	2,234	$22.83	$51,007
Muskrat	3,873	$9.97	$38,627
River Otter	1,284	$86.76	$111,396
Squirrel	575	$0.97	$558
Weasel	1,139	$3.57	$4,069
Wolf	1,248	$245.29	$306,124
Wolverine	548	$269.95	$147,932
Total			**$2,202,320**

FUR SEALING REQUIREMENTS

Lynx, river otter, wolf, or wolverine taken anywhere in the state, marten in Game Management Units 1 -7 and 14-16, and beaver taken in Units 1-11 and 13-17 must be sealed by an authorized department representative. If you ship furs of these animals to a buyer or auction house out of state, they must be sealed before you ship them.

All raw skins of wild furbearers shipped from Alaska must have a Raw Fur Export Permit (blue shipping tag) attached to the shipment. The Fur Export Report (a postage-paid postcard attached to the permit) must also be completed and mailed to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The U.S. Post Office Domestic Mail Manual Regulation 124.65 also requires compliance with this regulation. This 2-part form is free from any Alaska Department of Fish and Game office or authorized fur sealer.

If there is no authorized fur sealer near you, contact the nearest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A list of area biologists is on the next page. We can help you make arrangements to seal your furs. If you or someone you know wants to become a fur sealer, contact one of the following Regional Fur Sealing Officers.

Region 1 (GMUs 1-5)	Timothy Miles Alaska Department of Fish and Game P. O. Box 110024 Juneau, AK 99811-0024 (907) 465-4265
Region 2 (GMUs 6,7,8,14, & 15)	Cory Stantorf Alaska Department of Fish and Game 333 Raspberry Road Anchorage, AK 99518-1565 (907) 267-2257
Region 3 (GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 & 26BC)	Jackie Kephart Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1300 College Road Fairbanks, AK 99701-1551 (907) 459-7205
Region 4 (GMUs 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, & 17)	Leigh Honig Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 4 Palmer, AK 99645-6736 (907) 746-6300
Region 5 (GMUs 18, 22, 23, & 26A)	Karen Mitchell Alaska Department of Fish and Game P. O. Box 1148 Nome, AK 99762-1148 (907) 443-2271

Area Biologists and Game Management Units

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION -- ABs and GMUs

GMU 1 (A), 2
Boyd Porter (AAB: Steve Bethune)
2030 Sealevel Drive, Suite 205
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901
Phone: 907-225-2475
Fax: 907-225-2771

GMU 1 (B), 3
Rich Lowell (AAB: none)
PO Box 667
PETERSBURG, AK 99833
Phone: 907-772-5228
Fax: 907-772-9336

GMU 4
Phil Mooney (AAB: none)
304 Lake Street Room 103
SITKA, AK 99835-7563
Phone: 907-747-5449
Fax: 907-747-6239

GMU 1(C), 1(D), 5
Ryan Scott (AAB: Stephanie Sell)
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JUNEAU, AK 99811-0024
Phone: 907-465-4359
Fax: 907-465-4272

GMU 6
Charlotte Westing (AAB: none)
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CORDOVA, AK 99574
Phone: 907-424-3215
Fax: 907-424-3235

GUM 7, 15
Jeff Selinger (AAB: Jason Herreman)
34828 Kalifornsky Beach Rd Ste B
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669-8367
Phone: 907-260-2905
Fax: 907-262-4709

GMU 8
Nate Svaboda (AAB: vacant)
211 Mission Road
KODIAK, AK 99615
Phone: 907-486-1880
Fax: 907-486-1869

GMU 9, 10
Dave Crowley (AAB: Chris Peterson)
PO Box 37
KING SALMON, AK 99613
Phone: 907-246-3340
Fax: 907-246-3309

GMU 11, 13
Becky Schwanke (AAB: Wm (Frank) Robbins)
PO Box 47
GLENNALLEN, AK 99588
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Fax: 907-822-3811

GMU 12, 20(E)
Jeff Gross (AAB: Torsten Bentzen)
PO Box 355
TOK, AK 99780-0355
Phone: 907-883-2971
Fax: 907-883-2970

GMU 14(A),(B), 16(A),(B)
Todd Rinaldi (AAB: Tim Peltier)
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Fax: 907-746-6305

GMU 14(C)
Jessy Coltrane (AAB: Dave Battle)
333 Raspberry Road
ANCHORAGE, AK 99518-1565
Phone: 907-267-2811
Fax: 907-267-2433

GMU 17
Vacant (AAB: none)
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GMU 18
Phillip Perry (AAB: Patrick Jones)
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GMU 19, 21(A),(E)
Roger Seavoy (AAB: Josh Peirce)
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Fax: 907-524-3324

GMU 20(A),(B),(C),(F), 25(C)
Don Young (AAB: Tony Hollis)
1300 College Road
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Phone: 907-459-7233
Fax: 907-459-7332

GMU 20(D)
Darren Bruning (AAB: none)
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GMU 21(B),(C),(D), 24
Glenn Stout (AAB: Nate Pamprin)
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Updated 08/27/13

Trapper Comments

We are looking for ways to improve the Trapper Questionnaire. Please suggest changes, especially ideas for types of information that would make the Annual Questionnaire Report more useful for trappers.

Southeast

- Ask/clarify if traps were raided by predators, was furbearer lost, species, what type of predator?
- How many trappers are learning to trap? Also are there any women trapping? Are people trapping for income or just recreation? Are people having traps stolen? I've seen notes nailed to trees in this regard. Are trappers members of a club?
- A question about how close trappers are to others would be useful information. How much conflict or crowding in more populated areas?
- Good the way it is.
- Have you taken trapping instruction offered by the Alaskan Trappers Association? If so, did it prove helpful to your efforts?
- Thanks for your effort. Good questionnaire.
- Listing new sets, techniques, etc. for catching specific animals.
- Conditions on a trapline change. I checked Fair and Poor because the first 8 weeks were doable. Then snow stopped even travel.
- Seldom do I see furbearers on trapline. I however see evidence of them.
- Some explanation of why someone trapped might be useful. For myself, a local hatchery was having an otter problem with their king salmon fry, hence the short trapline. Those animals came to me rather than me having to go out and find them.
- This is my first questionnaire. Is the information only on the website or do you send a copy of the data to the participants?

Southcentral

- Post this online and provide hard copies early (before end of season) to regional/area offices, merchants, and fur buyers. Request, eventually require, this info to be submitted directly at the end of the primary season. Require more specific trapline location (at secondary drainage scale) and provide a synopsis box, such as this, to describe biological/animal description.
- This seems to be working.
- Use your local hunters in each areas. They have #1 ideas. Much easier to fill a paper like this with local hunters' input.
- Other obligations aside, really no reason for ADF&G not to mail these surveys in April! You know who has a trapping license.
- Improved over previous year.
- I guess the obvious, send this report in a timely manner at the end of the season.
- It's absurd to ask on #12 for 1 answer. My trapline is run almost equally with dogs, snowmachines, and on foot all much dependent on weather and conditions.
- Publish the results or give us a weblink.
- This format is much more specific than past efforts. Please keep watersheds/success rates confidential.
- In areas where management of populations is difficult maybe if you knew how many males and females of a species were caught it may help to determine how to get populations up. Kinda hard for trappers to remember stuff like that 7 months after the season - or at all. I personally keep a log of my catches. Good luck.
- None. Keep up the good work.
- This version looks good.
- Did you make a profit? Could you consider trapping a business?
- You're doing a fine job in my opinion.
- Overall enjoy reading the results of the questionnaire. No real ideas on improving as it covers most aspects. I do think overall experienced trappers are a good source of info as to what is going on with game populations in an area.

- Need it in April of same year.
- Ask if any animals caught had deformities or unusual markings.
- I believe you are doing a good job as is.
- It might be interesting asking where a trapper lives. Example: how many are based out of a village or a big city.
- Some questions are a little confusing?? Example: #25 Yes, to what question.
- Could you send it closer to the end of trapping season when memories are fresher?
- Stop trapping for two years for stock to recoup.
- Publish map with names/trails and annual reports as to abundance or not of fur.
- Nothing I can think of specifically. Maybe – avoid publishing specific name references in areas. I'd rather not see your results getting focus on an area because a name was used in the comments.
- Definitely get it to us in April or May.
- Not all trappers are selling solely to fur buyers. Some sell at auctions, some on the taxidermy market, some sell on the tourist/local market.
- Enjoy reading report.

Southwest

- I think it's pretty complete the way it is.
- I think your Trapper Questionnaire Report is a good idea. I do think you should include the species sea otters and sea lions!
- Mail it out in March or April. Information may be more fresh.
- At one time I recommended that F&G just ask the village trappers how many wolves and wolverines were caught in each village since many are used locally and not tagged. I noticed the question was put on the questionnaire for several years but it is no longer there. I recommend putting it back on.
- This is pretty user friendly in my humble opinion.
- Do it right after trapping season!!

Interior

- N/A Only a hobby and a sportsman's thing –I do it as time allows.
- It's pretty good as it is. Just get it to us sooner.
- How about type of bait used? Example for marten – fishheads, moosehide, jam, mouse paste, etc. Also, from what GMU?
- While trapping I trap beaver early (open water) until freeze up (usually only 2 weeks). I consider this a second line. When the main trapping season starts, I run my main line and extend it as conditions permit. I also take young people out with me (over 16) occasionally.
- Q. #9 – Could have space for part time people. My grandson goes when school allows, so not fulltime partner. Q #16 – Do you mean fur conditions – snow conditions, or? Q 18+19 – You can increase for one critter alone. Last year with lynx down we spent more time on other things but hard to answer in pieces-parts. Q #20 – Same, not all encompassing.
- If we get snowmachine this year we'll trap this year around big lake or some place farther.
- Questions on moose, caribou populations, weather conditions, snow depth, ice thickness, etc.
- Ask questions: Did you take/train a new trapper this season? Did you develop a new trail for your trapline? Do other users (i.e. dog mushers, recreational hikers) use your trail?
- Inquire about how weather, snow conditions, and other environmental conditions, affected: 1) Trapping conditions while actively trapping, 2) conditions that reduced effort and success once trapping was started. In my area all trapping virtually stopped for the entire month of January 2012 due to extreme cold.
- Just don't let the wolf huggers shut us down
- Get the questionnaire out to trappers at the end of a season – not the start of the next one.
- Most of the trappers trap for money, ask questions accordingly. At least the people who trap lots of animals.
- Urge new trappers, especially military folks, Coast Guard or Army, Air Force, who have special fast priviledges to tie and anchor their snares and foot traps down solidly! Nothing worse than snaring or shooting a fox that is walking around with another snare around his head and one front leg.
- Send your survey In April so we can get the report before the season.
- Was there fat on the animal? Was the pelt affected by lice/exo parasites? How far north have coyotes made it? Have you experienced any negative issues, i.e. people moving into your area/stealing fur?

- Some graphs that could be made annually for comparison which overlay numbers caught per species to month and weather extremes (temp, snow, or rain). It would be educational and useful to trappers to be able to compare info annually to historic data and observations of current conditions. The USWFS/KNWR gives data in numbers, but a visual representation for "old school", technically challenged trappers would be a nice, affordable service. Get us involved.
- Maybe gender of animals, size and number of other trappers in the area.
- I would like to see how many sell to auction houses. If so, which auction house. I would also like to see male/female ratios on marten catches. Trappers have a good idea on male/female so I think the #s would be valid.
- We trappers can also supply ADF&G with accurate information on other animal populations and fluctuations such as big game, waterfowl, and fish.
- Get this questionnaire out in April not October. This way you have fresh answers, not 6 months old. I received this form 15 Oct. It was postmarked 3 Oct. I am already getting out on line.
- Given in log form and turned in when season is over – something small like the trappers handbook, with blank pages for the trapper. The log pages should come out of the book but the trapper keeps the blank pages for his notes.
- My basic trapping is on the Salcha River itself. Other people are trapping the trails – so I don't move into these areas. Usually set after a moose kill or areas with tracks.
- Include what factors influenced trapper effects (for both increase and decrease) and include another option that enables the trapper to explain.
- Weather conditions have a lot to do with your ability to capture animals, such as snow depth, freezing/thaw.
- Check/rewrite the wording in Question 25.
- Thanks for all the time and effort that is put into this questionnaire. It is <u>much</u> better than it used to be! Great work!
- Questionnaire was awesome. I always enjoy filling these out. From my point of view this was GREAT!
- Include a 100 year analysis of pelt values for any species with the dollar normalized by spending power.
- Severly cut down on regulations
- Don't send me one. I don't trap enough to be called a "trapper". I am trying to trap beaver out of salmon streams. I do have competition. If I don't get sets out the first week of season I miss out. I don't think I qualify to fill out these surveys. I may catch 1 or 2.

Arctic & Western

- Have room for general comment. Numbers don't tell the whole story. Many trappers are very in tune with their areas and have good insight into population and habitat over many years.
- I like the shorter format..
- The format here is for the more "serious" trappers. Many of us are strictly recreational and participate strictly for enjoyment – hence the tiny number of sets and zero-to-minimal results.

Do you have any comments or suggestions for ADF&G or the Board of Game regarding how trapping can be improved in Alaska?

Southeast

- Lower fuel prices. Need for more traps and snares at discount.
- I think they are both doing a good job to keep trapping alive. I come from a state that lost its trapping privilages and it is sure nice to be trapping again.
- Due to limited trapping areas near my residence, I let my nephews run my line this past season. They definitely showed me up with their persistence and skill. It's good to see kids enjoying what Alaska has to offer and doing it responsibly.
- To prevent arguments I would like to see a person have so many miles of shoreline here in Southeast registered or permitted. The days of the gentlemen trappers observing others' areas is gone. There is a lot of trap/fur stealing in addition to people setting over the top of each other. I don't know the solution other than threats but that is no fun. I'm afraid to let our line go even one year to rebuild for the future.
- 1) Open a season on sea otters for both white and native Alaskans. 2) Make it easier to find a place to tag furs on Prince of Wales Island.
- ADF&G could have a "lending library" of updated videos/DVDs that trappers could "check out" and learn new techniques to catch critters most efficiently.
- Notices about the dog leash law should be posted before trapping begins. Dog owners leave their animals loose in the woods, which leads to conflicts. Perhaps ADF&G offices could put an article in their local newspapers to make the public aware.
- Don't open trapping on beaver until December 1st.
- I would like to see more liberal seasons in my Unit 4. There is an overabundance of mink, marten, and otter. There is no biological reason not to have longer seasons. It would help us trappers utilize an underutilized resource, if seasons were extended. It would be nice to see the resource utilized to its maximum potential, WITHOUT overharvesting. Plus it would give us rural residents a chance to make a bit more cash.
- I would like to see martin and wolverine seasons in 1D be of same dates. Nov. 10-Feb. 15. Our wolv. season was shortened on the spring end, substantially. It's hard to avoid the occasional martin in early season wolv. sets. Almost always prime.

Southcentral

- After lynx season closes in Units 15 and 7 when the cycle completes, keep a 2 lynx limit for trappers, being you can shoot 2 under a hunting license. Because sometimes when trapping wolves, coyotes, wolverine you could have an incidental catch that cannot be released.
- I would suggest that wolverine season be changed to match lynx season in Unit 11.
- Allow trappers in Unit 8 to shoot fox at night with aid of artificial light.
- Submit proposals to add statute and regulations for proactive habitat management with DNR.
- I think most trappers go with the flow. Snows too deep or warm thay stop trapping. Species are low you just don't catch much so we have lower counts. I think this is by far my worst year and it could be this way for a few years?
- Trapping can be easier <u>if</u> you put local hunters first then use your papers with their ideas and input. Adjust your papers to work with the local hunters from each area. Thank you.
- Put annual limits on critters like marten that get overharvested easily!
- Just keep the tree huggers and those ugly PETA people out of our state. If they don't like our way of living off the land give them a one way ticket back to California to eat veggies year round as they kill that live plant when they pull it out and leave us alone. Don't put up with their crap
- Remove the requirement for sealing beaver pelts. Unnecessary work for department employees (data is not being used or studied) and extra effort required for trappers. This seems to be a case of "we've always done it this way" and unless a valid argument can be made as to why it should continue, the requirement should be removed.
- Tough snow conditions in upper basin – extreme difficulties for me this alder generation! Especially in Valdez area

- Fuel prices up fur prices down difficult to improve unless incentive is there – I am trapping volunteer for BASE – main job was to clear beaver out of OTTER Lake and keep them out of golf course
- Coyote season should not close. They are hammering dusky goose and mainland deer. The delta continues to change, more tree growth denies access to most people, coyotes will continue to grow in population. Land and shoot will be only saving grace. Remove 300' from plane to shoot regulation.
- Recreational trapper should not claim public trails or their trapline – they must share – they did not build these lines. Many recreational trappers claim many miles of public trail and shoreline as their sole territory and hide behind ATA trapper codes as their justification. This effectively stops many from trapping. Trappers in their area should expect competition. I do.
- Aireal wolf hunting in my area has resulted in: I haven't caught a wolf in 3 years maybe 4. Wolf hunters are possibly to be the reason. Ya think
- Require breakaway snares on coyote and wolf snares.
- Thanks for working hard to continue support for our trapping heritage. Thanks for defending trappers and the job we do. Thank you
- Go to registered lines or limited entry on marten if prices stay this high.
- Just as Alaska salmon are actively marketed by state funds derived from fish sales, it would be good to do the same for Alaska wild furs. It sure helped fish prices. Every year there is an apology for getting these questionnaires out late. Perhaps you can learn from your experiences and get one to us when our memories are still fresh?
- Open coyote trapping to use with snares on 15 October to match Unit 13 and 12 and other areas. Coyotes are the number 1 predator in the state now and there numbers are growing at the fastest rate.
- Get rid of winter moose hunts in this area. The moose hunters shoot and destroy furs found in sets or steal them each year. They also destroy trails and sets either by acedent or intentionally. The pregnant cows are chased and harassed by snowmachiners causing stress on them from Oct. 15 – Feb. 28th . If they need to reduce cows in the heard run the season from August to mid October.
- Very heavy (late) snowfall and cold temp made trapping very difficult.
- Registered traplines would be nice – Have had animals and traps stolen from me – other trappers report the same thing.
- Stop letting older people early trap beaver in culverts along the highway and have a program for youngsters in the area. In our area the highway dept. gets permits to kill pesky beavers. Why not let youngsters catch them in October?
- Increase the wolf population.
- The reason our production was so low this year was related to the unusually bad winter, (storm after storm). We had much difficulty maintaining and setting.
- Overall appreciate the work you do. Somewhat a thankless job as most seem to want to complain w/o offering solutions (or often the solutions are self-serving). Thank you.
- Trapping conditions would be better if season was Nov. 1st instead of Dec. 1st. Furs would be worth more because they would sell on a better auction. The late auction prices usually aren't as high. Otter furs have less singe. Bay freeze up render untrappable especially interior bays and drainages.
- Would be nice to have somewhere people can put their traplines on a map so people new to trapping might know where existing lines are and maybe not move into other peoples' area.
- I have no comments about suggestions for ADF&G and Board. I like the way it is. I'm only a weekend trapper. I trap when I get off work. I work 5 days a week.
- A map at local ADF&G offices that show trails that are being trapped so new people in town don't run down people's lines looking for areas to trap.
- In Unit 13C theres more than enough trappers to keep the wolves in check. We don't need airal hunting.
- Don't ever buy into radical environmentalist's agenda
- Go with manitory trapline checks and traps/snares tagged??
- I don't know what ADF&G can do about it but thieves on snowmachines plus fuel prices can make the trapping worthless near anywhere near a town or on the road system.
- Hunting regs are way to confusing and complicated!
- Open the season for trapping earlier to make it standardized across the state.
- Regester long lines, infringement by road trappers more than 5 mi. from road system always a problem with sustained yield being maintained. My trails are not cut out for Public use they are for trapping. If the public wants to run around in the woods they can cut and maintain thier own trails and not disturb my sets and steal my fur.

- Send people younger generation to take a trapping coarse on taking care of hides and the way they set there trap line, and respect other trapers
- If a trapline is registered to me I should be responsible for that line and no others should be allowed to trap over top. It should be a law, not just trappers' honor.
- 17C – I don't think the opening of red fox trapping Nov. 10 is a good idea as the animals in our area are not yet prime and have very little market value. Dec. 1 would be a better date as most of us local trappers start right about then. Thanx
- Beaver tags need to go away. They serve very little if any purpose and cost the state money.
- Register trapping areas and control the number of trappers.
- In general, trappers are better off with long seasons and no bag limits. Each trapper should be able to manage his line as he/she sees fit.
- Stricter regulation and enforcement. Require name or other ID on traps. Require checking every 24 hours. No trapping within ¼ mile of private property, trail heads and public use facilities (especially killer kind of traps and snares.)
- Kill more wolves by poison or any other method. Too few moose in all three areas I visited, Tangle Lakes area/eureka area/Denali hwy and Big Sue. Saw more wolf scat and tracks than I ever have.
- The state should get involved with promoting trapping (or I should say the furs) like they do with commercial fishing and fish products taken by commercial fishermen. Also no one who is a commercial fisherman should be allowed on the BOG.
- Extend otter Unit 8 into Feb.
- Change the underwater trap regulation in GMU 13B
- The Unit 8 road system is now completely owned by the Lesincsi Native Tribe. Non-Natives are no longer able or allowed to trap on Kodiak's available and "only" road system. Not even for a fee. Only Natives allowed. So save taxpayers' money only send this to Unit 8 Natives!
- I suggest extending Unit 14 beaver trapping. If the season was extended 5 or 10 days that would allow trappers to extend their range and harvest beavers in areas that are too difficult to reach within the 5-6 day timeframe after ice out. This can help reduce beaver dams on creeks which are popular with drift boats, and extreme overabundance in areas such as Alexander Creek, Moose Creek and other bodies of water.
- In Unit 6C – end beaver and river otter at the same time. End of April – this would prevent by-catch of river otter while beaver season is still open.
- Trapping can be improved in Unit 8 and Alaska by ADF&G letting all trappers, vets and cheechakoes, know about private land Nat Corp and military, people need to know where their at and have permission!!
- The first thing I'd like to see is a non-biased wolverine survey done in Unit 14C. I would also like to see furbearer studies done in Unit 18.
- Thanks for the change in Unit 15B for beavers starting Nov. 10 instead of December. The ice thickness quickly shortens my season, and I trap beaver on a single watershed in my neighborhood. This should help manage a growing population (small scale) with limited food resources due to vegetation type. Trapper and public education booths at sports fairs, outdoor shows, etc. to show the benefits of safe informed trapping and its management uses.
- Biger bag limit for beaver in GMUs 15 and 7 and a longer muskrat season for GMU 15.

Southwest

- Open mink trapping mid October in Unit 18 – By November 10 everything is usually covered in lots of ice and snow and trapping any quantity of mink seems impossible – there is no time for open water trapping. Other than that – keep up the good work.
- Longer season, end of February
- Can you fix the weather?
- I feel the biologist (past and present) in Units 9-19 and 17 really drop the ball by failing to contact trappers in their respective areas to garner hands on information. My wife and I have trapped in these units for over forty years and have never been contacted regarding our observations. (My wife's photo is on the back cover of the 2005 annual report of this questionnaire.)
- The only thing I have to say is I'll be 76 this coming trapping season – I <u>will</u> trap this winter on a cut down size trapline – 2 small lines about 10-12 miles each.
- Keep promoting trapping, esp. for kids

- We have a company here buying fur in the region so expect trapper numbers to increase yearly as long as prices hold
- Not at this time – as an advisory board member over the years we have lobbyed and gotten our area modified to meet the local trapping seasons best advantages
- Do park rangers have the right to mark my trapline? an snap my snares? an take my traps that are snapped? I may make a lawsuit at them.

Interior

- There has to be better education about other people's established areas. I know not one trapper around Manley, including myself, that hasn't had someone come along from Fairbanks and set traps in our areas, including on existing poles, etc.
- I know how my area off the Steese Highway could be improved for me. When the winter caribou hunt opens – don't leave it open all season with the boundary as Birch Creek. It's hard to target wolves and wolverine when hunters are going down every trail I put in and running through snares and trail sets. Not that many other people are not that familiar with what snowmachines can do to sets.
- As you know to have good trapping, you have to have prey animals. In the area I trap the moose season was longer, moose was taken the last five days. That area get lots of hunting pressure. That is Unit 20c. 20a still has not come back from what it was before all the cows and calves were killed. I am out a lot the last of Sept. and Oct. I am checking places I know where the cows and bulls herd up – these places are getting fewer. My trapping depend on prey animals, it seems when the moose are down the furbearers are too.
- Tell the Fairbanks Trappers Assn. not to have any more trapping classes
- Open more areas to include military lands. Drawings to trap in troubled city areas for beaver, other animals.
- N/A Great as it is. Have never had any problems issues or idea how to improve what doesn't seem to be in need of a fix.
- Make it clear to "old timers" it is not there line unless it is more than ½ mile from public roads and brushed and maintained and used regularly by them! Many feel gas lines, pipeline and public areas are theres and only they can trap it.
- Would love to see wolf open 1 Oct. in 20B. I am very happy lynx is now "just open". IMO trying to do month season or 2 wk season is crazy – either they are there or not, good call.
- Too many wolves and bears killing all the moose.
- If fish and game peace officer brother us we'll do better trapping
- Colder and more snow made traveling further up river, late freeze up make trapping season a little shorter
- What is where species + density's = location!
- I believe the fall beaver season should be eliminated to many beaver are caught. Spring beaver season should end a week or so sooner most of the fur is rubbed
- River otter season ends just as the season is picking up. Season need to be a month to month ½ longer.
- Address the Let Burn Policies by Forestry, especially in areas such as the 40 mile country and Tok area where Virtually hundred of square miles or thousands of square miles of habitat have been totally destroyed. Save some green!
- More encouragement to respect established traplines/trails. More exposure/PR explaining how trapping is an important management tool, economic benefits, etc.
- We have a problem with trappers trapping over our traps. It seems that we would all do better if we spread out. So maybe stress the importance of the "Code of Ethics" #1 responsibility.
- Do not let liberal Disney types make laws for municipalities that contradict state law and turn 10 year old kids into criminals for having a healthy hobby
- For the Board of Game – No buffer zone around Denali!
- Promotion of our resource to foreign markets like we do fish, minerals, coal, etc.
- Elimenate open water beaver trapping in 20B, near populated areas. Adversely affecting beaver populations, wasting fur value
- Good job. Keep promoting trapping. I want to take my son in a few years.
- Register the trapline so you can work it the right way.
- The state needs to support the local trapper org.
- I just wanted to comment that I travel a lot is the reason I haven't been actively doing that. However I intend someday to teach my sons and other youth how to trap. When and where. When I'm done with public service.

- Keep it. Also better enforcement. A marten thief was going around.
- Not unless you guys can convince the marten to breed more heartily ☺
- It would be nice to receive from ADF&G the results of your surveys maybe even past animal counts
- Require trappers to register traplines. In order to reduce unethical trappers from trapping other people's traplines.
- No. But please send future questionnaires to my new address.
- Give trappers with a history of trapping an area rights to that area, so if he feels the need to let the line set for a year or two other trappers will not move in
- Let us trap brown bears with snares – 2 many bears and wolves – 2 few moose
- I am concerned that the BOG is looking too heavily at the Alaska Trappers Association for trapping seasons and methods and means regulations. The ATA is urban trappers, primarily, who want seasons that accomidate competitiveness, and conditions in GMU 20. ADF&G and the BOG should not only work with ATA, but all trappers in various GMUs to set seasons and methods regs. Currently ADF&G Region III and ATA are working up region wide seasons and methods for the whole region. The ACs should be involved too.
- Either: 1) Authorize retention of a limited # of incidental catch, or 2) have the same season dates for all species that are typically caught incidentally in other species sets
- More marten studies – population depressed for 12 years in our area
- Nothing at the time. You all do a stand up job, keep up the Great Work
- The cow moose hunts in 20A really impact the trapping not many moose – not many fur animals Please do not open 20C to <u>any</u> cow moose hunts EVER!!!
- I would like to see wolverine season open Dec. 1 with most other species or everything else open with wolverine. Opening wolverine early gives some guys an excuse to trap marten early, they claim the marten get into their wolverine sets by accident. Please consider moving everything to Nov. 10 so everyone gets an equal chance, or move wolverine to Dec. 1.
- None of the things that make trapping difficult for me are controlled by ADF&G or the BOG.
- The Board of Game regarding trapping and ADF&G are doing a good job and I have no suggestions for Unit 20B and 25C.
- Limit # of animals catch limits. Especially martin and lynx per area must seal within 30 days catch

Arctic & Western

- Did you consume the meat of the furbearer *These questions should be asked to study the further development of trappers and to show trappers utilize more than fur and that our trails benefit others.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Once again I would like to thank ADF&G Information Services staff for their help in converting the Trapper Questionnaire to a format that could be read by an optical scanner and for creating the database that made information from the Questionnaire usable. I would also like to thank Tom Paul for his effort assembling this report.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who responded to ADF&G's 2011-12 Trapper Questionnaire – I hope you enjoy this report. Your responses to this survey are strictly voluntary, but the higher the response rate, the better our understanding of what is happening with trapping and furbearer populations in Alaska and the better we can manage these resources. It also gives you a better understanding of how other trappers fared statewide. Please continue to return your surveys and encourage other trappers you know to participate as well. If you know any trappers who want to receive a questionnaire and report, have them contact me at the phone number or email listed below.

Finally, many thanks to all who sent trapping photos. I enjoyed seeing them and look forward to sharing them with others in this and future Trapper Reports. Please consider taking your camera along this season and e-mailing more photos when you return. If you do send photos, please also include a brief explanation of each picture and a statement in your e-mail giving ADF&G permission to use your photos in the Trapper Questionnaire Report and other trapping-related publications.

Good luck in the field this coming season.

Sincerely,

Tom Schumacher, ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire Coordinator
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Photo courtesy of USFWS Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Photo by Ken Marsh

Photo by Victoria Kotongan

Nome Trappers' Fling 2009 Photo by Bill Brophy