

2022 Alaska Trapper Report:

1 July 2022-30 June 2023

Stephanie E. Bogle



Photo by Trey Blake



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Cover Photo: Wyatt Drake holds two marten trapped on Prince of Wales Island, December 2022.

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Photo by Graham Gablehouse

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Photo by Jesse Ross

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 nontarget animals.
4. Obtain landowners' 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. Dispose of animal carcasses properly.
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 furbearers 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 in a joint effort between the Alaska Trappers Association and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The manual is currently available from the Alaska Trappers Association for \$26.00, including shipping, or from some bookstores in Alaska.



Photo from ADF&G files.

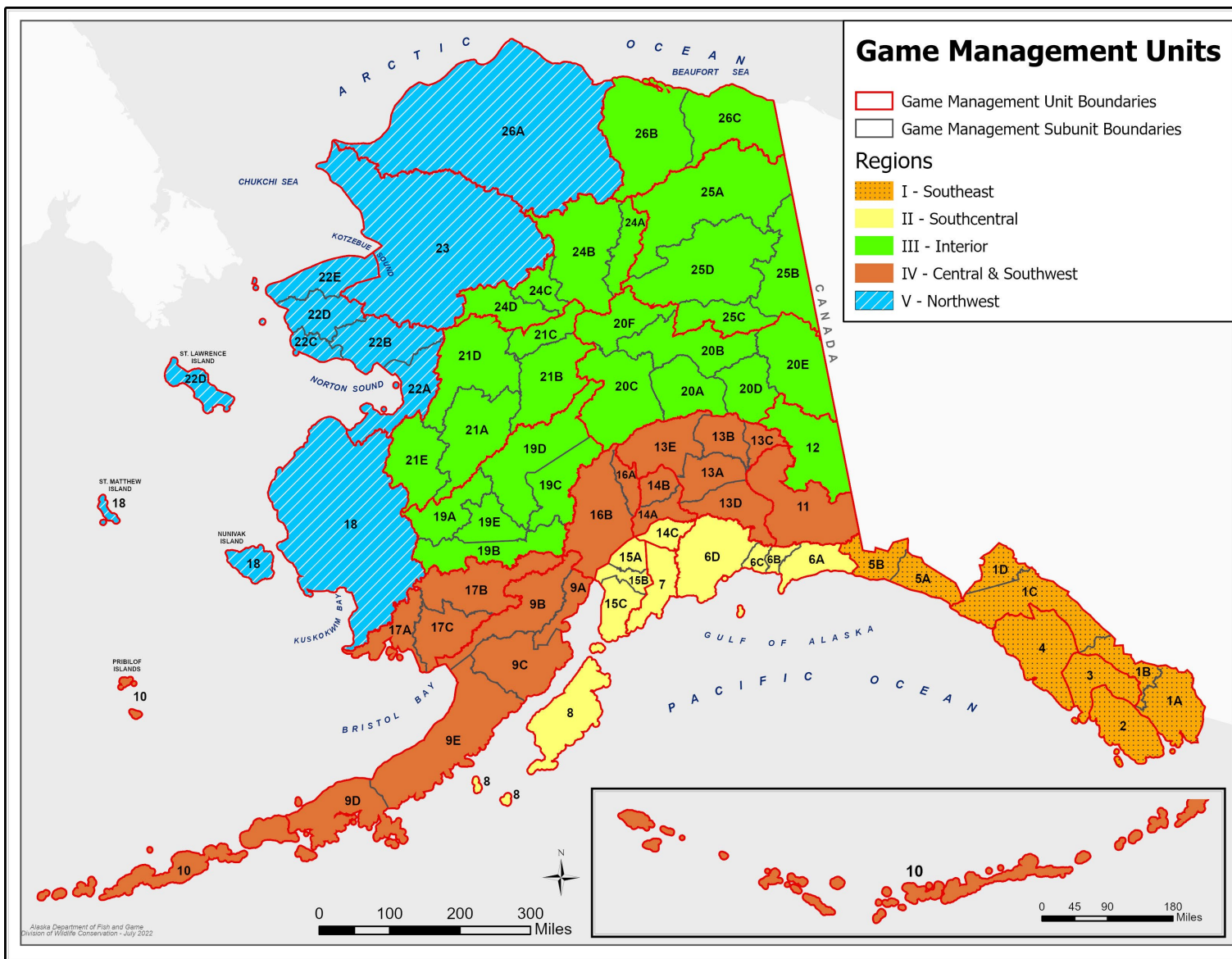


Figure 1. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation’s regions and game management units.

Introduction

This *2022 Alaska Trapper Report: 1 July 2022–30 June 2023* contains information provided by trappers through the annual trapper questionnaire. On the following pages, you will learn 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 will also find fur sealing summaries from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) as well as comments from trappers throughout the state.

In 2015, ADF&G began offering the questionnaire in an online format in hopes of improving the data. We continue to work to improve the questionnaire and the reports generated from information provided by trappers on the questionnaire. We hope trappers and managers alike can use the information in this report to enhance their efforts during future trapping seasons.

The accuracy and value of information provided in this report depends on the numbers of trappers who reply to the questionnaire. To best reach trappers with this questionnaire, we identified potential trappers using licensing and fur sealing records. The 2022 questionnaire invites were sent only to people who purchased a trapping license, hunt/trap combination license, or a hunt/trap/fish combination license authorizing them to trap in regulatory year 2022. Of the 3,460 questionnaire invites mailed or emailed out, we received 354 responses, yielding a 10% response rate. The response rate increased from the 2021 survey response rate.

This year, trappers were assigned to the 5 standard regions found in Figure 1 based on their mailing address. If a trapper responded with a primary trapline that was in a region separate from his or her mailing address, we reassigned that trapper to the region where the primary trapline was. This was done in an attempt to accurately reflect trapping effort and locations. Throughout this report, regions will be listed by a Roman numeral in place of the description (e.g., Region I instead of Southeast): Region I = Southeast Alaska; Region II = Southcentral Alaska; Region III = Interior Alaska; Region IV = Central and Southwest Alaska; Region V = Arctic and Western Alaska.

As always, we maintain strict confidentiality. The 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. This report and currently all previous reports can be found on our website:

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

A Profile of Trapping in Alaska

TRAPPER INFORMATION

Did You Trap?

This year, 3,460 questionnaire invites were mailed throughout the state and 354 responded for an overall response rate of 10% (Table 1). The response rate was highest from Region V and lowest from Region IV. Statewide, 40% of respondents trapped during the 2022–2023 season, regulatory year (RY) 2022 (a regulatory year begins July 1 and ends June 30; e.g., RY22 = 1 July 2022–30 June 2023).

Table 1. Response to the 2022 Alaska trapper questionnaire.

Region	Responded to the Questionnaire			Answered “Trapped” or “Did Not Trap”	
	Total invited	Percent responded	No response	Trapped	Did not trap
I	504	13.1	438	33	33
II	912	11.4	808	29	75
III	861	8.9	784	29	48
IV	819	8.4	750	37	32
V	231	12.6	202	10	19
Not specified	133	–	–	–	–
Total	3,460	10.0	2,982	138	207

Note: En dash (–) indicates not applicable.

Statewide, of respondents who reported they did not trap in RY22 but reported when they last trapped ($n = 190$), 26% ($n = 49$) had trapped within the past 2 years, and 44% ($n = 58$) had last trapped more than 2 years ago. The rest, (27%, $n = 12$), said they had not trapped.

Trapping Experience

During the RY22 season, active trappers statewide averaged 14.8 years of experience trapping and 11.3 years of experience trapping in Alaska (Fig. 2, $n = 136$). This is down from the averages over the last 15 years, suggesting there is a younger group of trappers in the field. However, the average for the past 3 years has held relatively steady. The average experience trapping in Alaska increased slightly compared to RY21. This suggests that Alaska may be retaining trappers. Trappers in Region III averaged the most trapping experience overall (16.9 years), and trappers in Region I averaged the most experience in Alaska (13.9 years). No data were collected in RY09 or RY14.

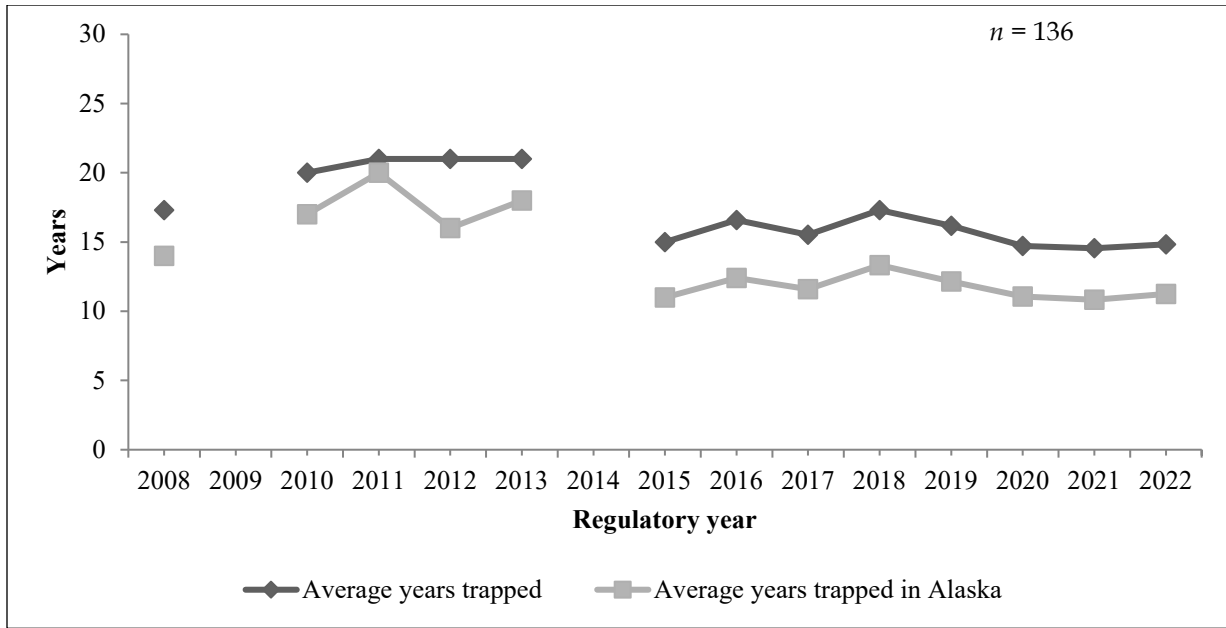


Figure 2. A statewide 15-year trend of trapper age and experience, regulatory years 2008–2023, Alaska.



Photo by Lucas Byker

TRAPLINE INFORMATION

Trapping Area

Statewide, trappers have trapped in the same area for an average of 6.4 years (Fig. 3, $n = 137$). Trappers in Region V spent the longest amount of time trapping the same area (a 7.8-year average), while Region III trappers spent the least amount of time trapping the same area (a 5.5-year average). The longest time spent trapping in a single area was 44 years, reported by a trapper in Region I.

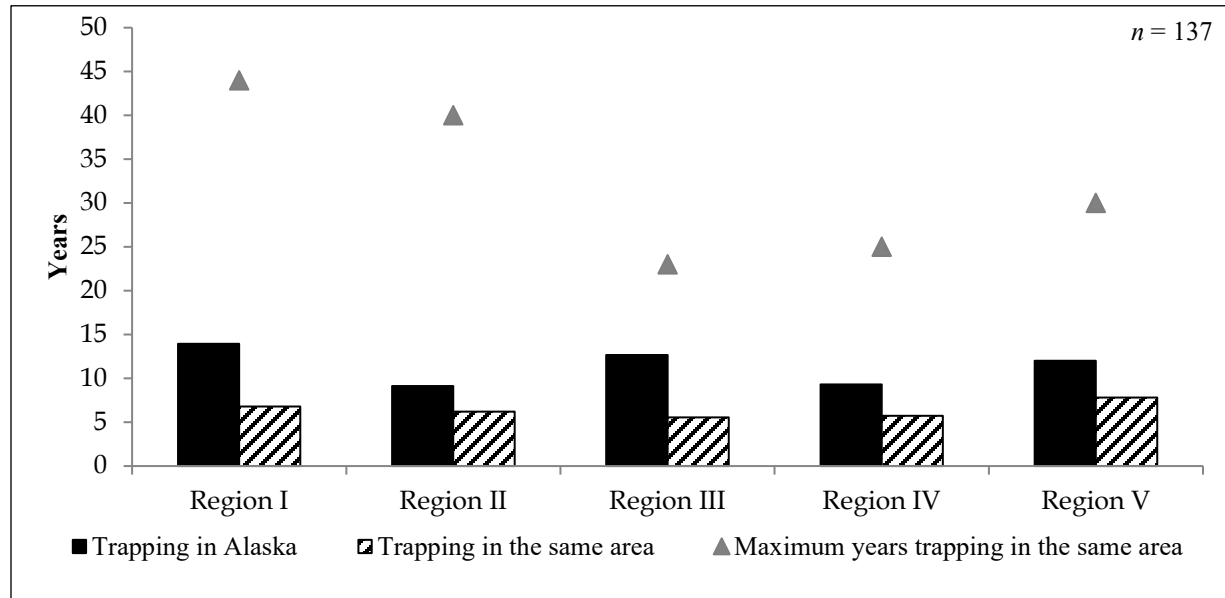


Figure 3. Length of time spent trapping by region, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

Trapping Frequency

During the RY22 season, trappers averaged 8.3 weeks of trapping (Fig. 4, $n = 136$). Region V trappers spent the longest time trapping (an average of 11.3 weeks), while Region I trappers spent the least amount of time trapping (an average of 7.3 weeks). Statewide, 73% ($n = 99$) of trappers trapped a total of 8 weeks or less.

Trapline Transportation

Trappers who received the 2022 questionnaire were asked what their primary mode of transportation was for both traveling to their traplines and for running their traplines during the RY22 season. Statewide, the most common mode of transportation used by trappers to get to their trapline(s) ($n = 139$) was a highway vehicle (Fig. 5; 47%, $n = 66$). Trappers in the state also commonly reported accessing their trapline(s) using snowmachines ($n = 38$). Highway vehicles were the most common mode of transportation to access traplines in Regions I–IV, while snowmachines were by far the most common mode of transportation in Region V.

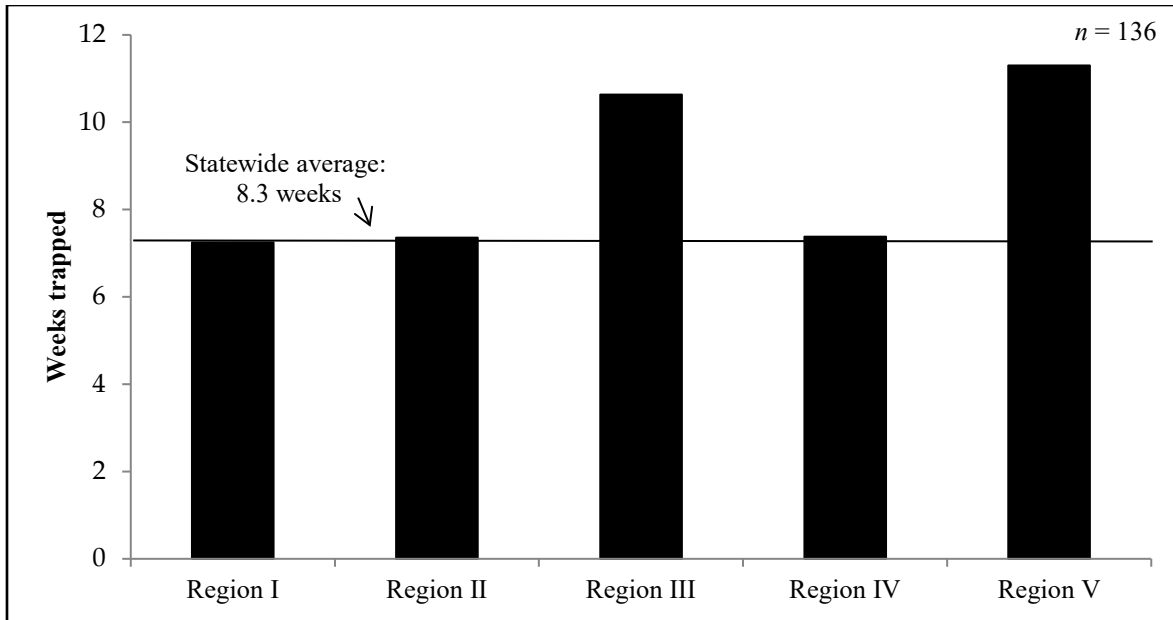


Figure 4. Number of weeks trappers spent trapping by region, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.



Photo by Graham Gablehouse

The most common mode of transportation that trappers used in the state for running their trapline(s) (Fig. 6, $n = 139$) was a snowmachine (49%, $n = 68$), followed by walking, skiing, or snowshoeing (29% combined, $n = 41$). Snowmachines were the most common mode of transportation for running traplines in Regions III–V; walking, skiing, or snowshoeing was the most common mode of transportation for Region I-II. Statewide, no trappers reported using a dog team to get from their home to their trapline or for running the trapline.



Photo by Simone Cook

Primary Mode of Transportation from Home to the Traplines

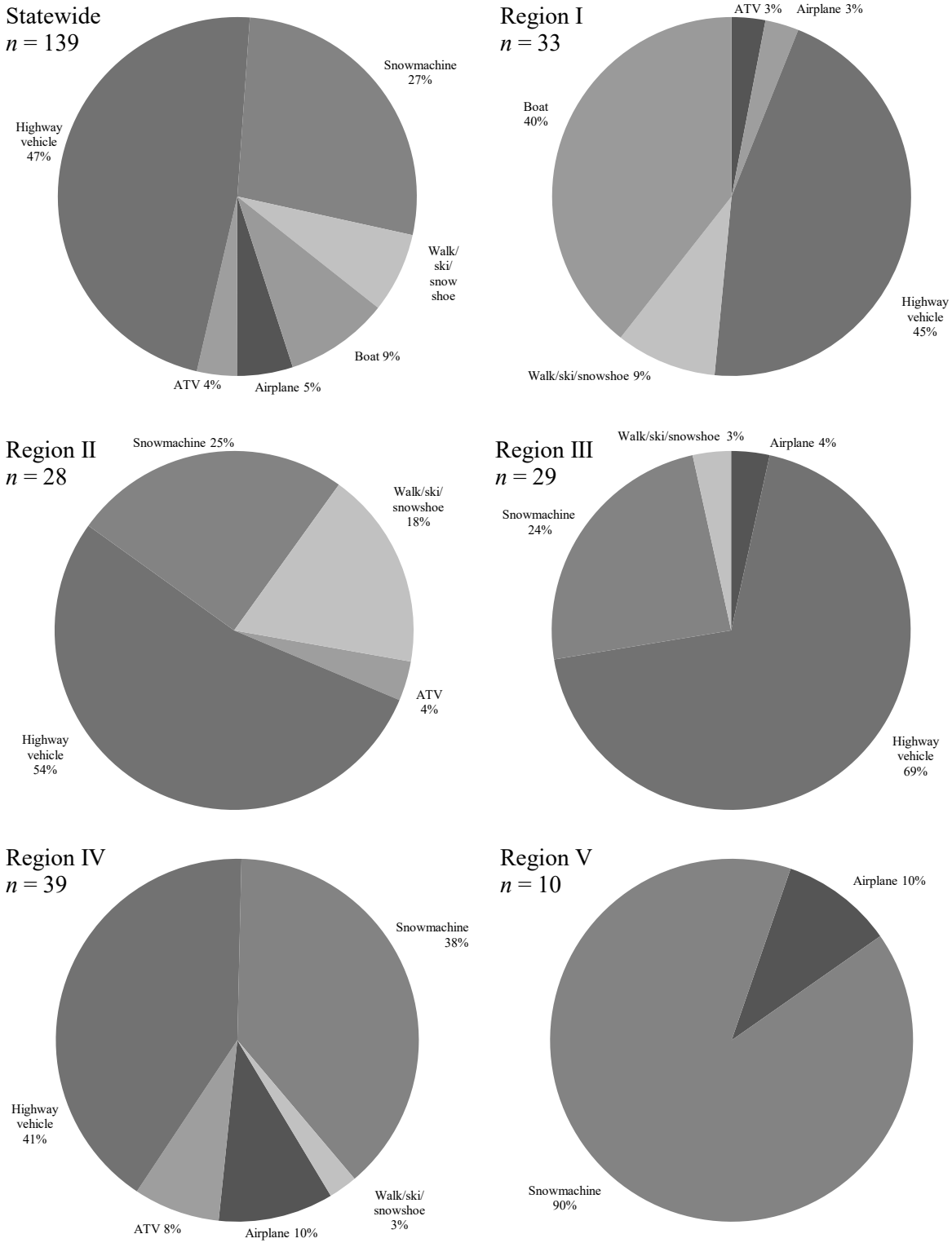
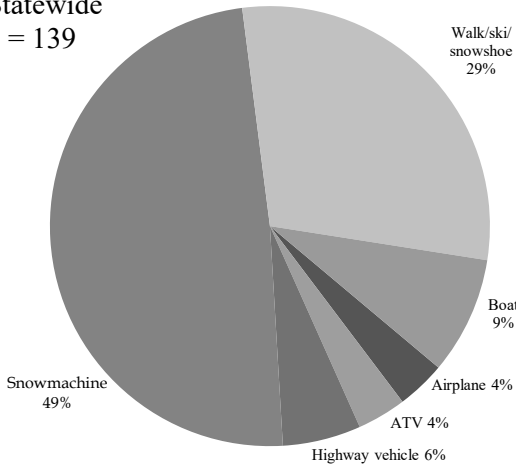


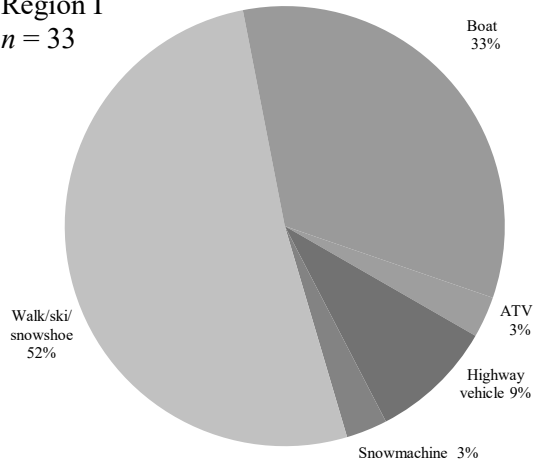
Figure 5. Primary mode of transportation used by trappers to reach their traplines, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

Primary Mode of Transportation Used to Run the Traplines

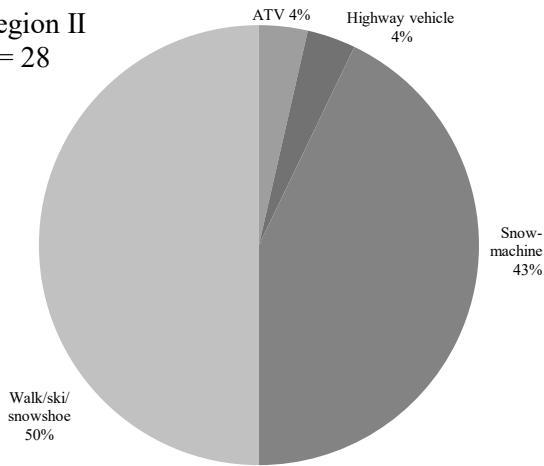
Statewide
n = 139



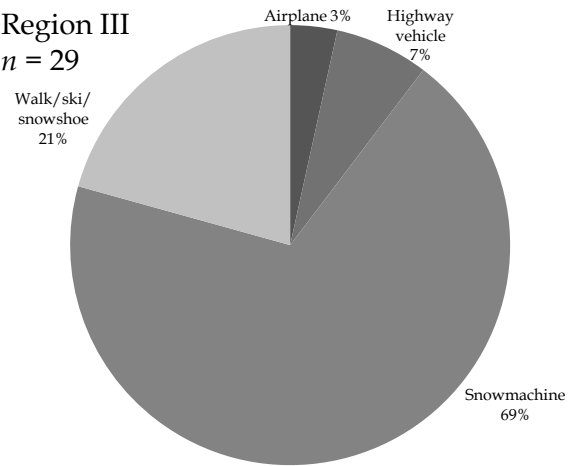
Region I
n = 33



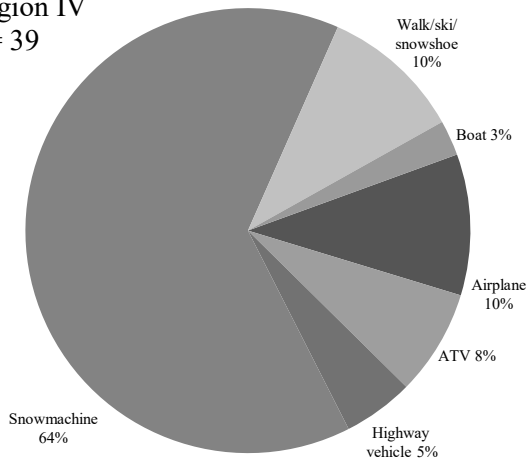
Region II
n = 28



Region III
n = 29



Region IV
n = 39



Region V
n = 10

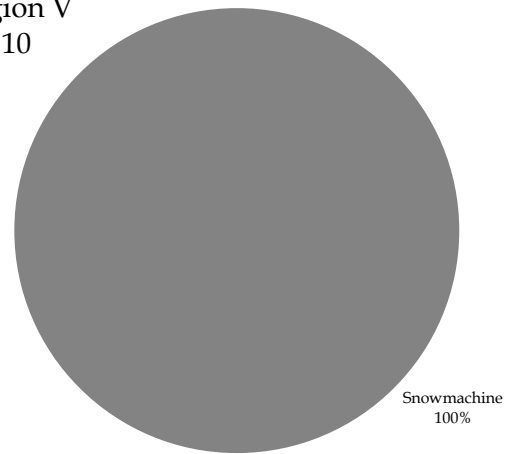


Figure 6. Primary mode of transportation used by trappers to run their traplines, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

Trapline Composition

Statewide, traplines averaged 17 miles in length with an average of 20 sets per trapline (Table 2). Region IV trappers had the longest average trapline length at 360 miles. Region I had the highest maximum number of sets per trapline, at 285 sets per trapline. Region II trappers reported the shortest average trapline length (9 miles) and Region V reported the lowest average number of sets (8) per trapline.

Table 2. Average reported trapline length and number of sets per trapline, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

Region	Average trapline length (miles)	Maximum length (miles)	Average number of sets per trapline	Maximum number of sets per trapline
I	10	80	20	285
II	9	65	15	50
III	17	150	28	110
IV	26	360	21	125
V	30	150	8	40
Statewide	17	360	20	285



Photo by Brian Powell

Trapping Efforts

During the RY22 season, 41% ($n = 55$) of Alaska trappers ($n = 134$) did not change their efforts compared to last season (Fig. 7). Of those who did change their efforts ($n = 79$), 54% increased their efforts. As a result, 70% ($n = 30$) of trappers who increased their efforts also saw an increase in their overall catch.

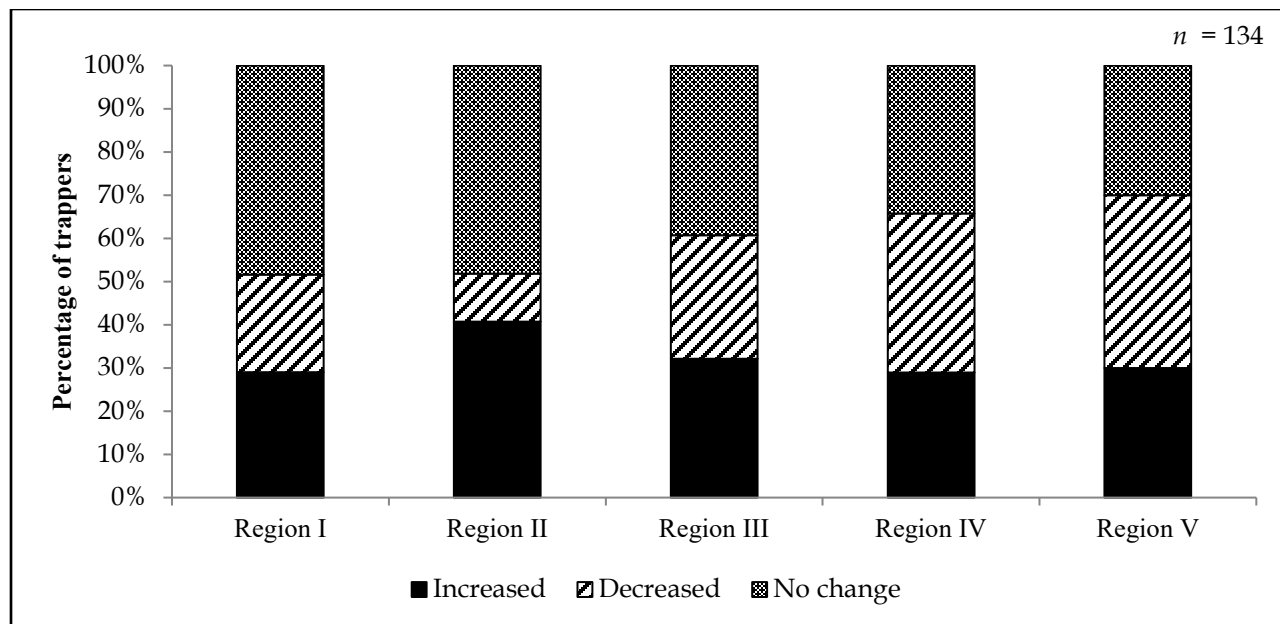


Figure 7. Change in trapping efforts by region, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.



Photo from ADF&G files

Trappers could select multiple responses on the questionnaire for how their efforts changed in the RY22 season (Fig. 8, $n = 77$ trappers). The 2 most common changes in effort across Alaska were an increase in the number of sets ($n = 38$) and trapping in a new area ($n = 33$). Trappers in Region IV ($n = 24$) changed their effort the most; they decreased the number of sets ($n = 12$), while Region III trappers ($n = 17$) changed their effort the most by increasing trapline length ($n = 10$) and increasing the number of sets ($n = 10$). Trappers in Regions I and II showed the greatest change in their effort by increasing sets ($n = 8$, $n = 9$, respectively), while Region V trappers ($n = 7$) showed the greatest change in their effort by decreasing the number of sets ($n = 4$) and by decreasing the number of weeks ($n = 4$).

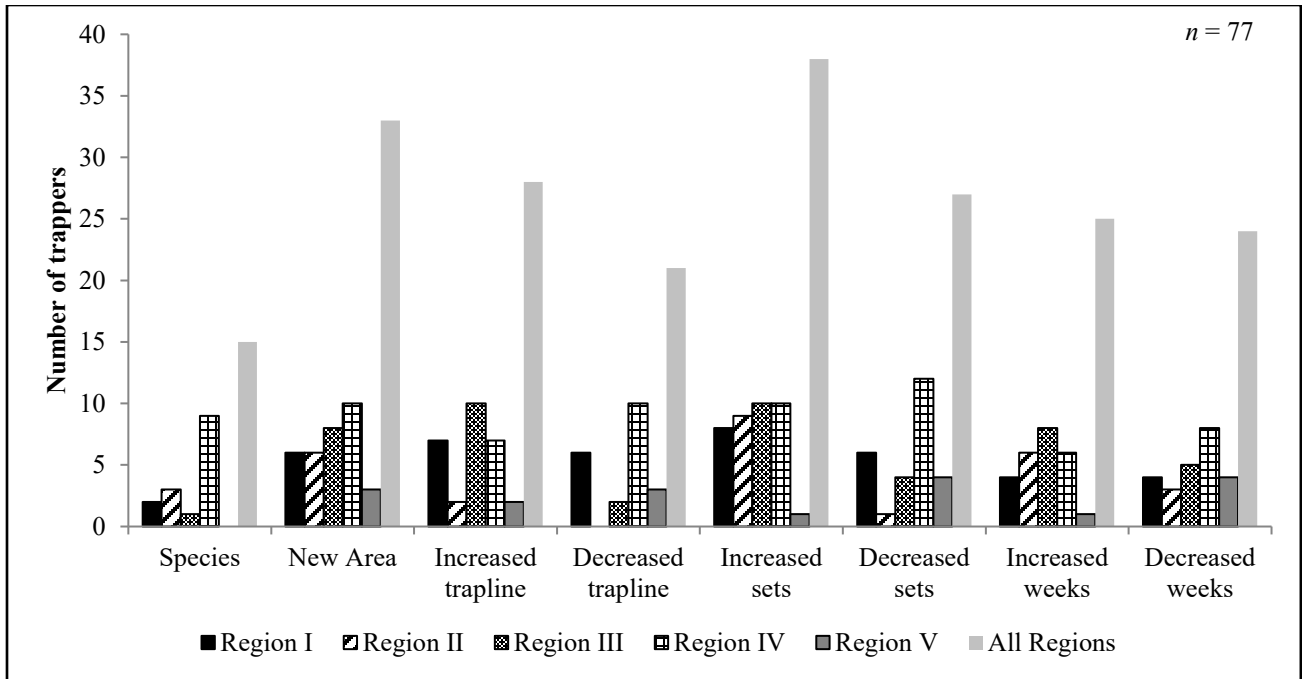
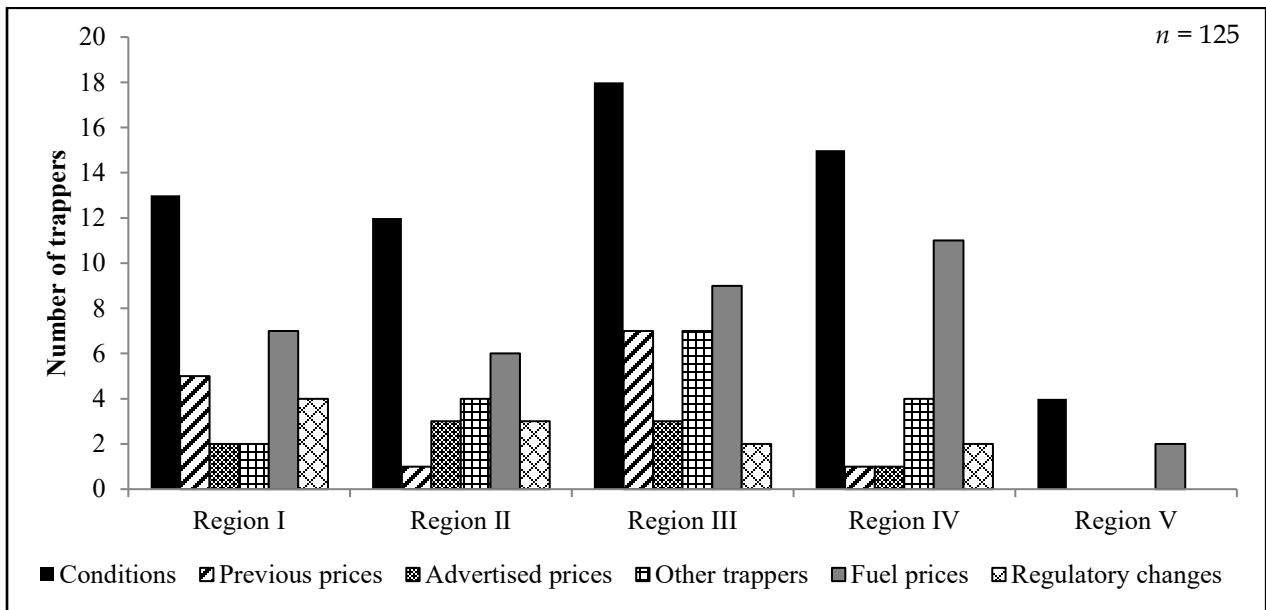


Figure 8. Types of change in trapping effort by region, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

Statewide, trappers reporting factors that affected their efforts during the RY22 season (Fig. 9, $n = 125$), indicated trapping conditions (weather, snow depth/cover, ice, etc.) was the leading factor influencing both an increase ($n = 29$) and decrease ($n = 33$) in trapping effort. Fuel prices ($n = 27$) and previous season prices ($n = 11$) negatively influenced trapper effort, while other trappers reportedly caused trappers to increase ($n = 10$) and decrease ($n = 7$) effort.



Note: Conditions include weather, snow depth and snow cover, ice, etc.

Figure 9. Factors affecting trapping effort by region, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

TARGET SPECIES AND FUR DISPOSITION

Target Species

Table 3 below shows how each species ranked in order of importance by region, with 1 being most important and 14 being least important. Rank was calculated by totaling the number of trappers who ranked that species as 1 of the 3 most important species they were trying to catch.

Marten was the most important species across Alaska. Marten ranked as the most important species in Region I, while lynx was ranked as the most important in Regions II-IV. Statewide, lynx and wolf ranked as the second most important species.



Photo by Bill Brophy

Table 3. Species ranked by importance at both statewide and regional levels, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

Species	Statewide	Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Region V
Lynx	2	7	1	1	1	3
Marten	1	1	3	2	5	5
Beaver	6	3	6	6	7	5
Wolf	2	4	3	2	1	3
Wolverine	4	6	8	4	1	1
Coyote	8	—	2	7	6	—
River otter	7	2	3	—	8	—
Red fox	5	—	6	5	4	2
Mink	9	5	—	—	10	5
Ermine	10	7	8	—	9	—
Muskrat	11	—	—	—	10	5
Arctic fox	12	—	10	—	10	—
Red squirrel	12	7	10	—	—	—
Fisher	—	—	—	—	—	—

Note: Rank = 1–14, with 1 being most important and 14 least important. Repeats of rank indicate that one or more species tied for that rank. En dash (–) indicates no trapper ranked the species as one of the most important.

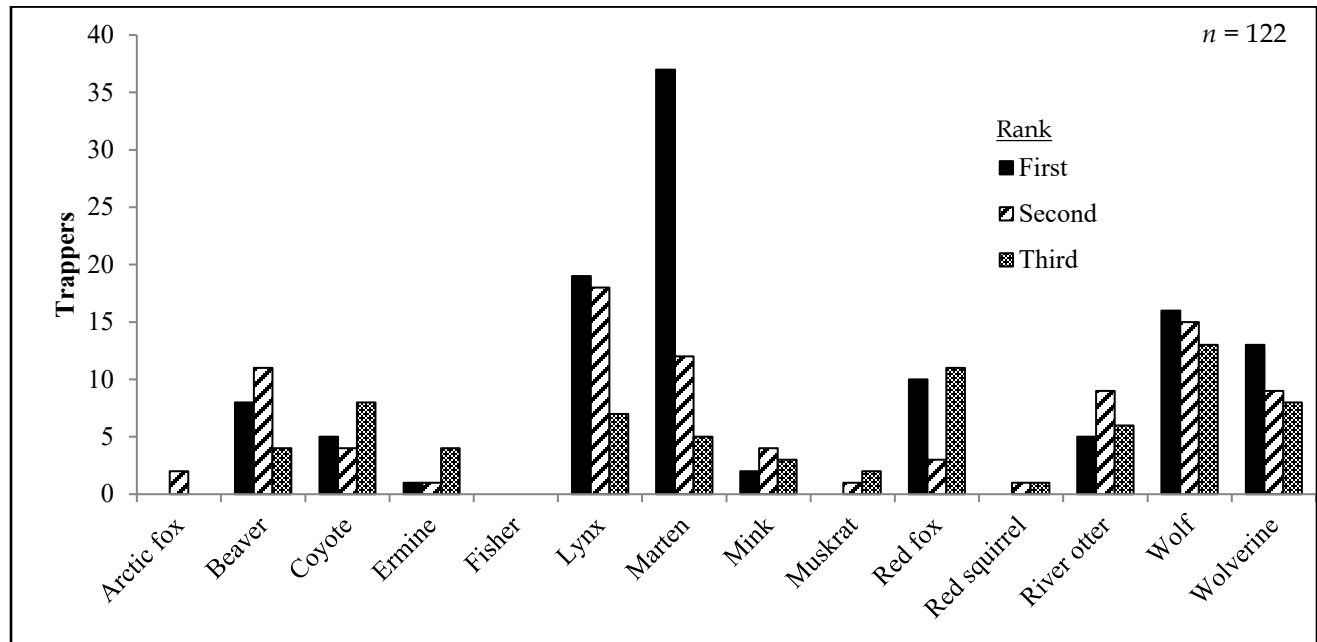


Figure 10. Number of trappers statewide ranking each species as the first, second, or third most important species they targeted, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

Presence of Ectoparasites

Trappers who trapped during the RY22 season indicated that ectoparasites, including fleas, lice, ticks, and other species, were either not present or scarce across all furs harvested (Table 4). “Other” ectoparasites noted on furbearers included small white mites on a marten in Region I. Regionwide ectoparasite abundance was determined by reassigning a numerical value to each category (not present = 0; scarce = 1; common = 2; abundant = 3) and averaging the sum of each region. An arbitrary range of values was created to classify the average opinions of trappers regarding ectoparasite abundance in an area: values of 0 indicated ectoparasites were not present, values >0 and <1.67 indicated scarce ectoparasite abundance, values of 1.67 – 2.33 indicated common ectoparasite abundance, and values >2.33 indicated abundant ectoparasite abundance. Fields with an en dash (–) indicate that no responses were received.



Photo by Drew Hamilton

Table 4. Presence of ectoparasites found on furbearers by species and region, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

Region	Ectoparasite ^a	Species													
		Arctic fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine	Fisher	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red fox	Red squirrel	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine
I <i>n</i> = 13	F	NP	NP	S	S	NP	NP	S	S	NP	NP	S	S	S	NP
	L	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	-	S	NP	NP	NP
	T	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	-	S	NP	S	NP
	O	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	S	NP	-	NP	S	NP	NP
II <i>n</i> = 10	F	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
	L	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
	T	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
	O	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
III <i>n</i> = 13	F	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	S	S	NP	NP	S	S	NP	S	NP
	L	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	NP	NP	NP	NP
	T	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
	O	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
IV <i>n</i> = 9	F	NP	NP	NP	NP	-	NP	NP	-	NP	NP	-	NP	NP	NP
	L	NP	NP	NP	NP	-	NP	NP	-	NP	NP	-	NP	NP	NP
	T	NP	NP	NP	NP	-	NP	NP	-	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
	O	NP	NP	NP	NP	-	NP	NP	-	NP	NP	-	NP	NP	NP
V <i>n</i> = 2	F	-	S	S	S	-	S	S	-	S	S	-	S	S	S
	L	S	S	S	S	-	S	S	-	S	S	-	S	S	S
	T	S	S	S	S	-	S	S	-	S	S	S	S	S	S
	O	S	S	S	S	-	S	S	-	S	S	-	S	S	S

Note: Trapper responses in this table are abbreviated as follows: NP = Not present; S = Scarce. Two other options that were offered but were not used: C = Common; A = Abundant. Fields with an en dash (-) indicate that no responses were received.

^a Ectoparasites are abbreviated as follows: F = fleas; L = lice; T = ticks; O = other.

Harvest Methods

USE OF PREDATOR CALLS

Statewide, only 15 trappers reported using any type of predator call; of those trappers, 60% ($n = 9$) used only electronic predator calls, 40% ($n = 6$) used only manual (mouth) predator calls, and 6% ($n = 1$) used both electronic and manual predator calls (Fig. 11).

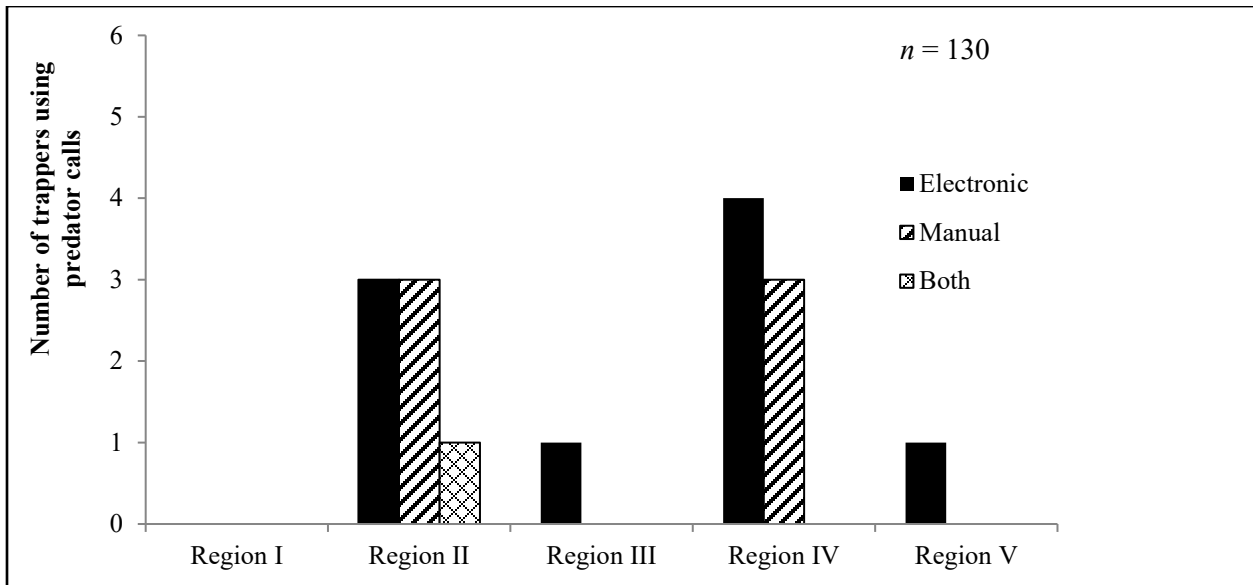


Figure 11. Use of predator calls by region, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.



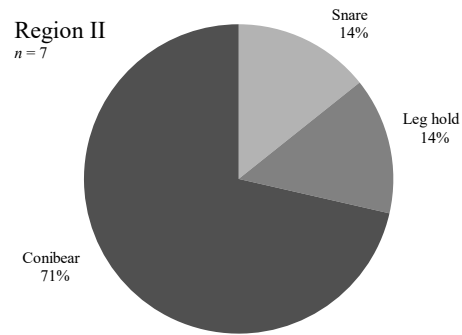
Photo by Temple Dillard

TRAPPING TECHNIQUES AND SUCCESS

Trappers responding to the 2022 questionnaire were asked to provide the number of pelts they took using each trapping technique (i.e., shot, snared, foothold, Conibear, or other). Summaries of the number of pelts taken using each technique for each species harvested are provided in Figures 12–24.

ARCTIC FOX

Region I
No harvest reported



Region II
No harvest reported

Region IV
No harvest reported.

Region V
No harvest reported



- Other
- ▨ Snare
- Shot
- ▤ Foot Hold
- ▣ Conibear

Statewide Trends in All Fox (Arctic and Red) Harvest Methods

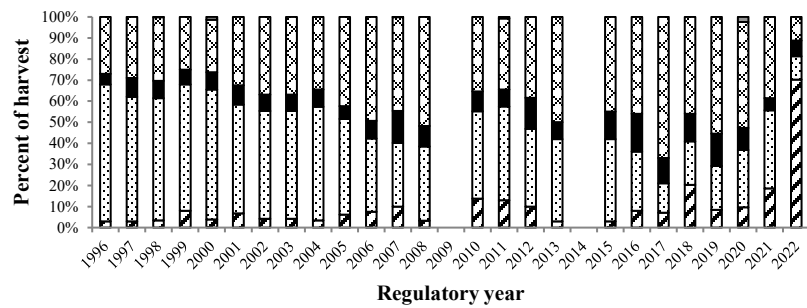
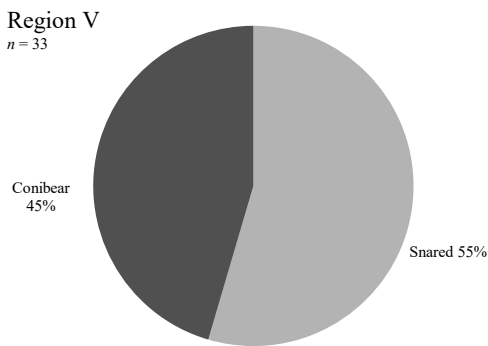
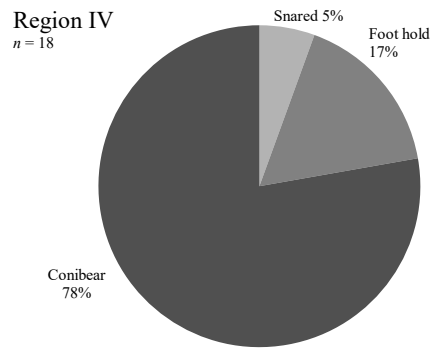
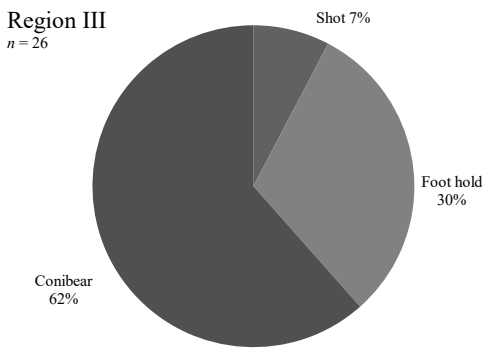
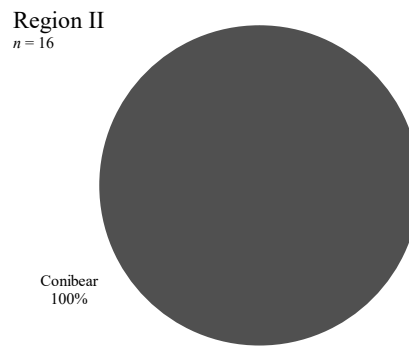
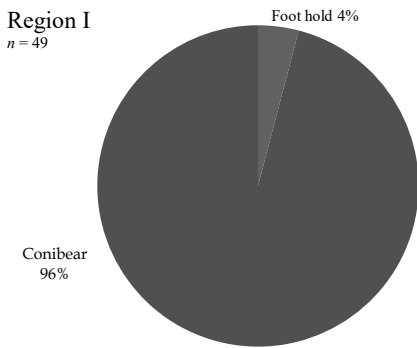


Figure 12. Arctic fox harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

BEAVER



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

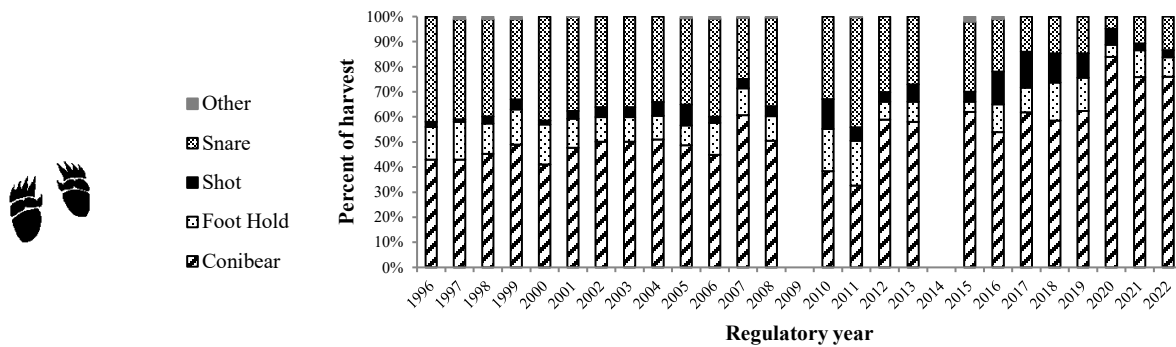
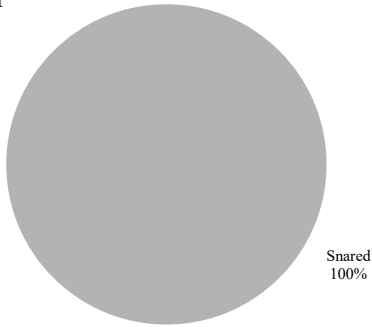


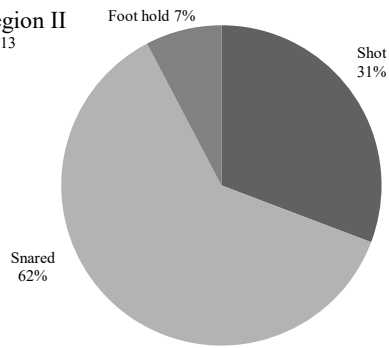
Figure 13. Beaver harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

COYOTE

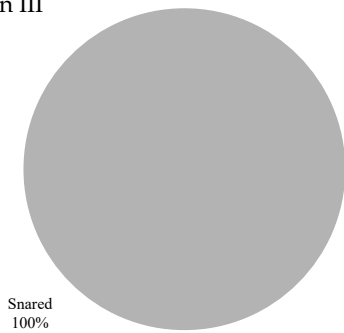
Region I
n = 1



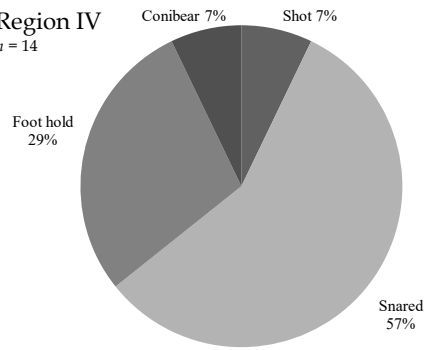
Region II
n = 13



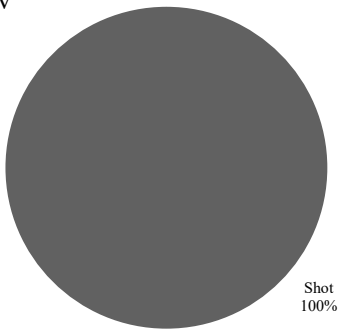
Region III
n = 2



Region IV
n = 14



Region V
n = 1



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

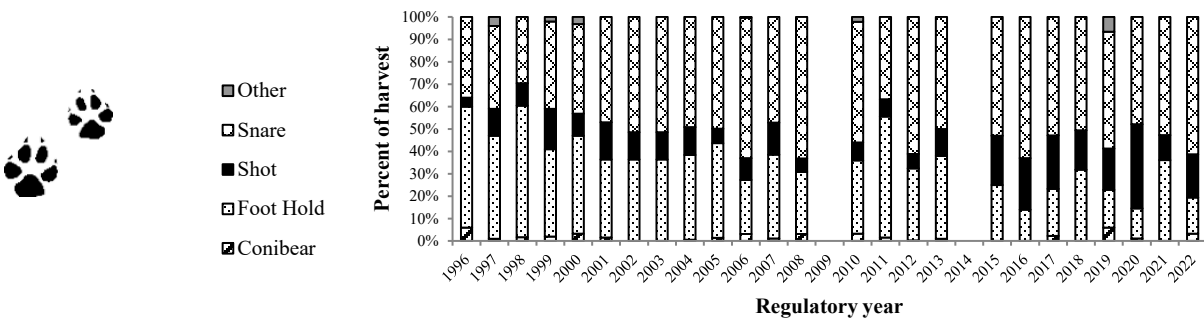
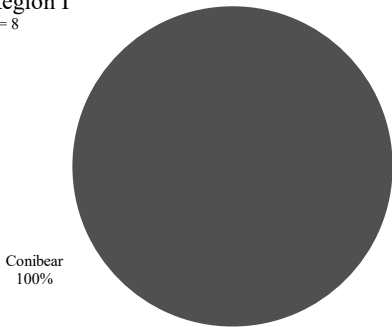


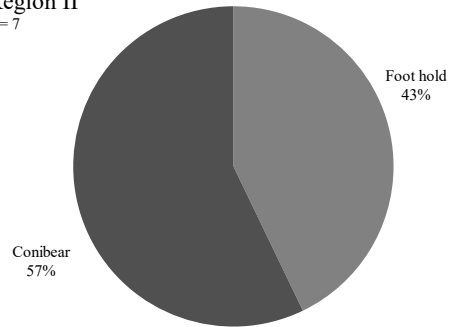
Figure 14. Coyote harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

ERMINE

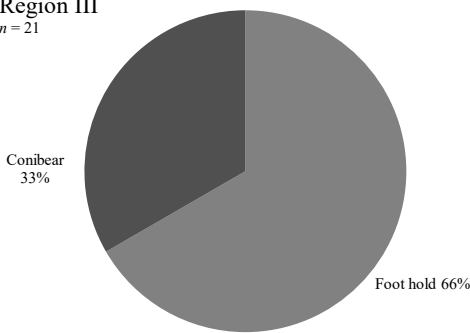
Region I
n = 8



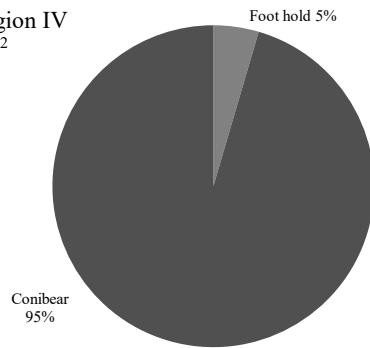
Region II
n = 7



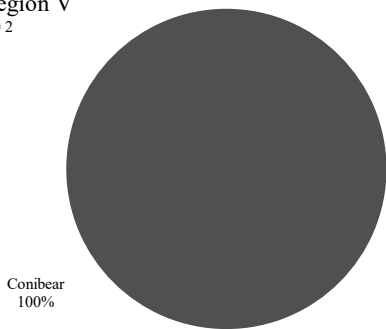
Region III
n = 21



Region IV
n = 22



Region V
n = 2



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

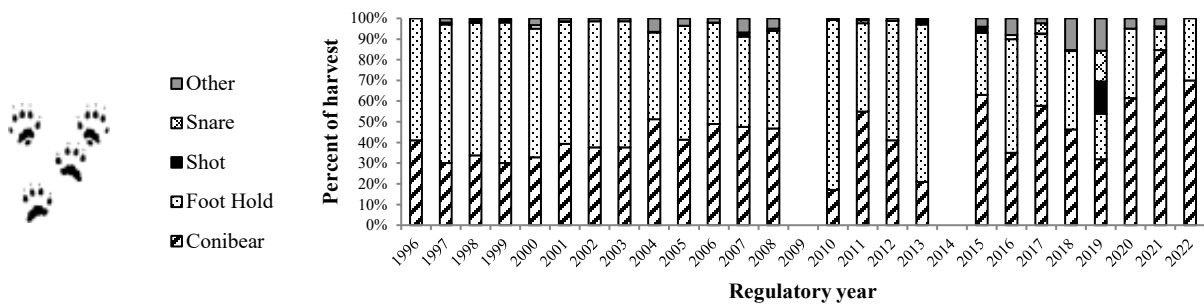


Figure 15. Ermine harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

FISHER

Region I-V
No harvest reported



Photo by Lou Eney

Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

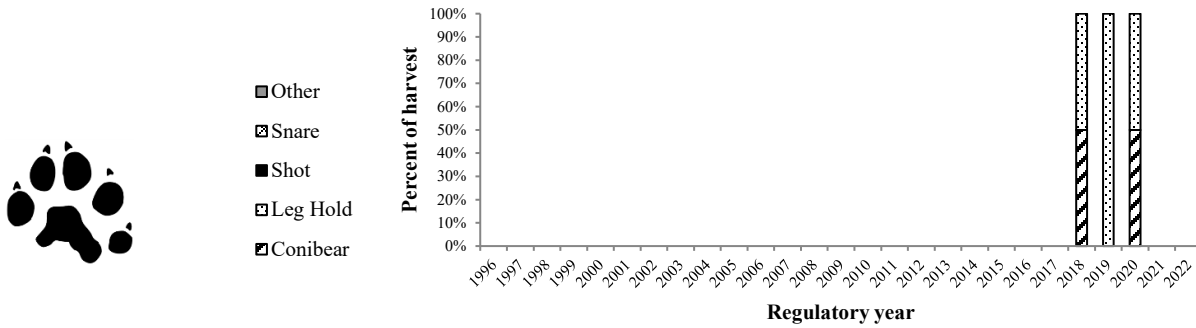
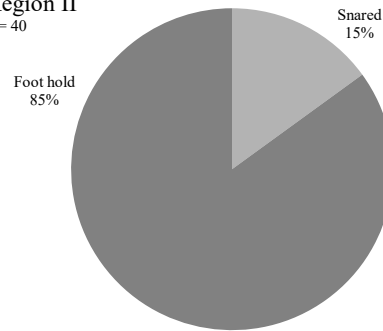


Figure 16. Fisher harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

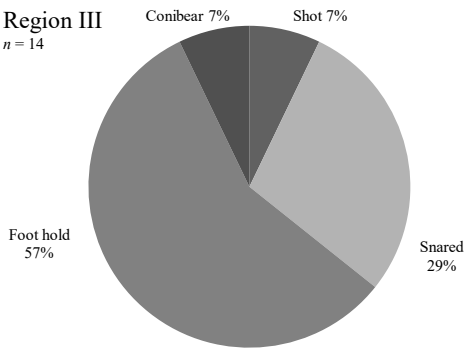
LYNX

Region I
No harvest reported

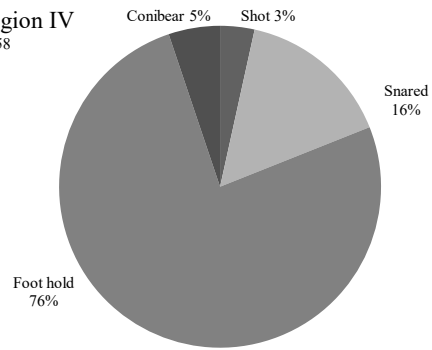
Region II
n = 40



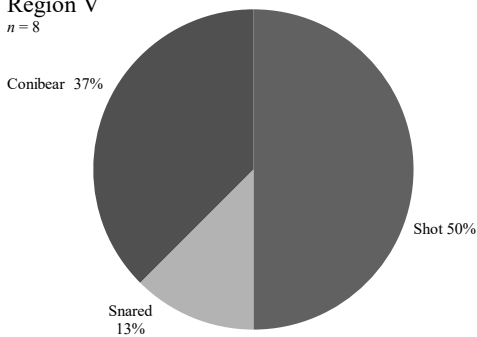
Region III
n = 14



Region IV
n = 58



Region V
n = 8



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

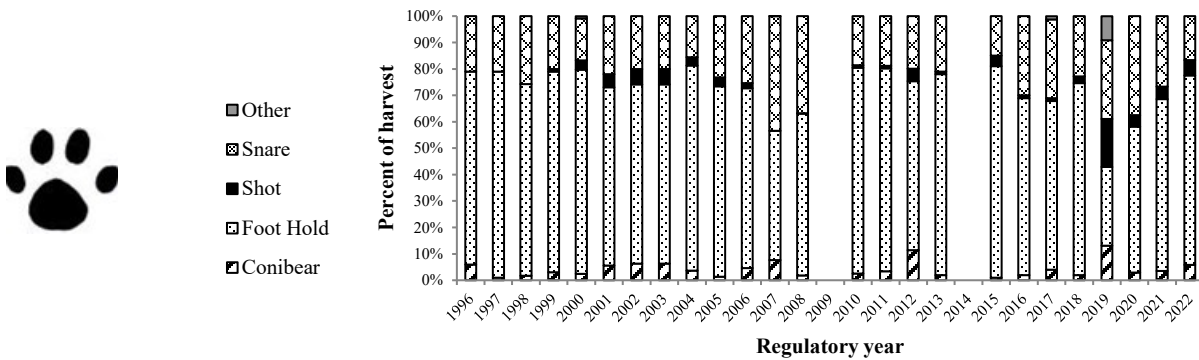


Figure 17. Lynx harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

MARTEN

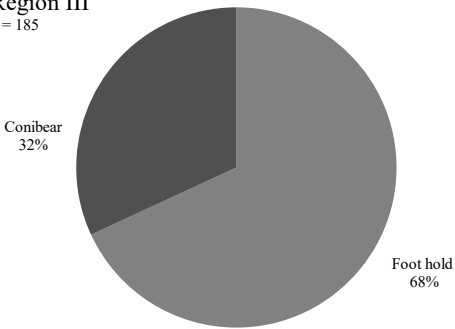
Region I
n = 264



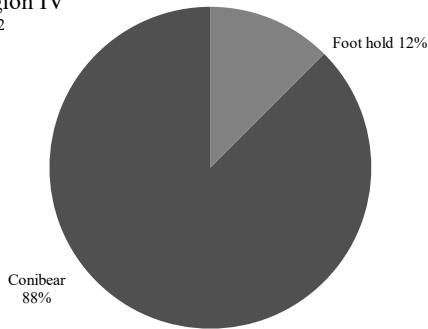
Region II
n = 21



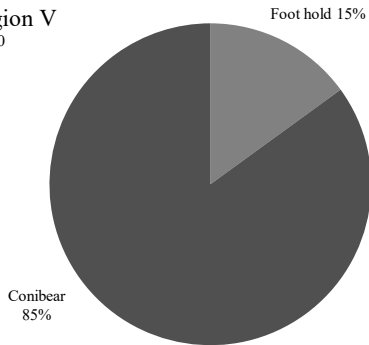
Region III
n = 185



Region IV
n = 72



Region V
n = 20



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

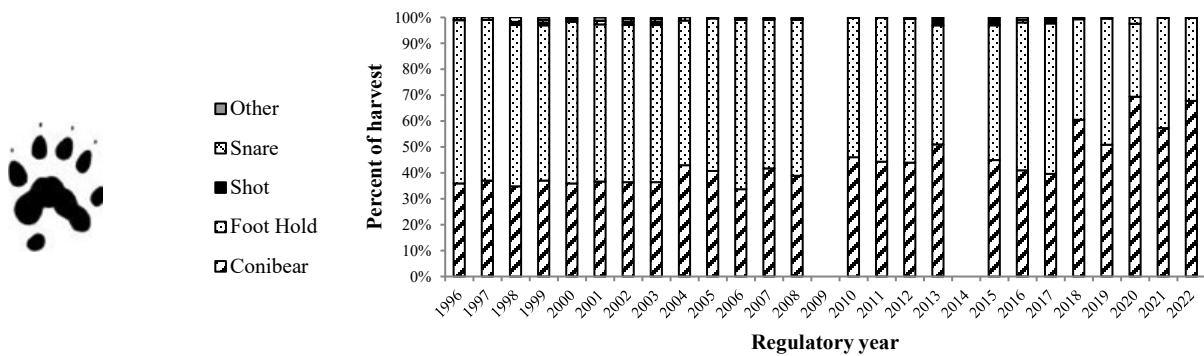
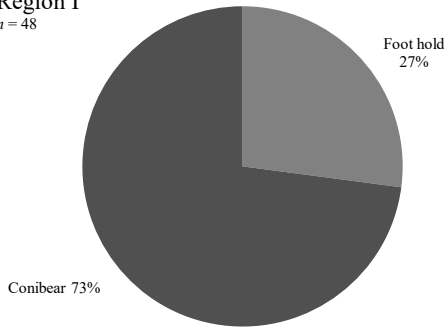


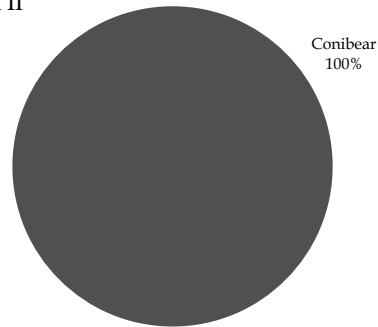
Figure 18. Marten harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

MINK

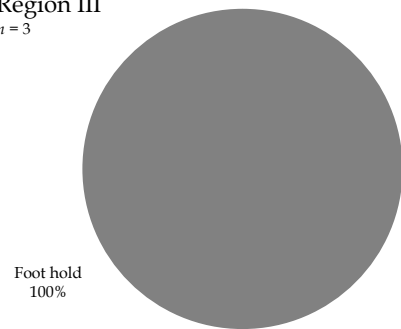
Region I
n = 48



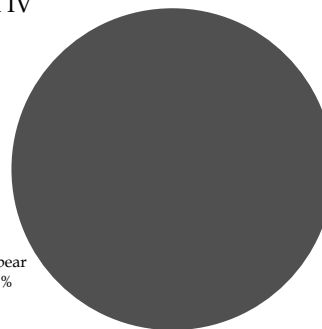
Region II
n = 2



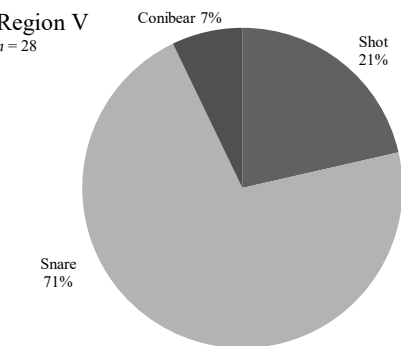
Region III
n = 3



Region IV
n = 6



Region V
n = 28



...

Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

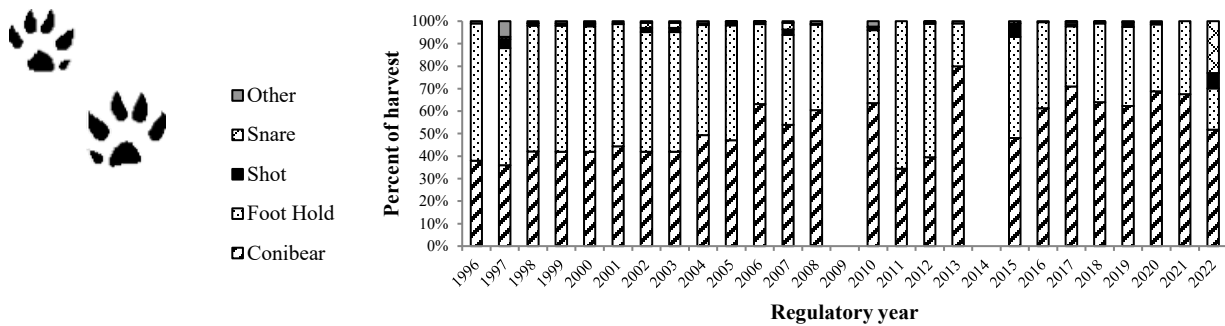
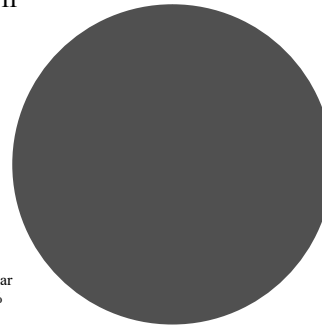


Figure 19. Mink harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

MUSKRAT

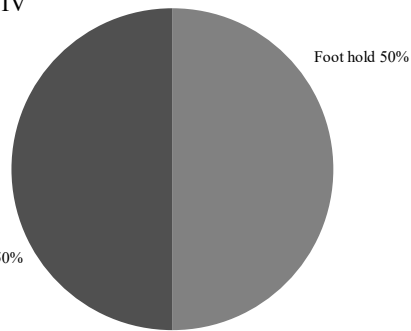
Region I
No harvest reported

Region II
n = 1

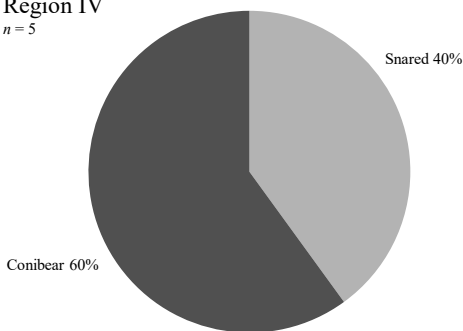


Region III
No harvest reported

Region IV
n = 8



Region IV
n = 5



- Other
- ▨ Snare
- Shot
- ▨ Foot Hold
- ▨ Conibear

Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

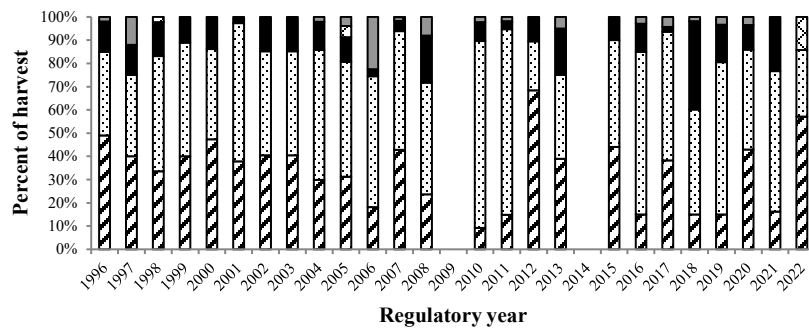
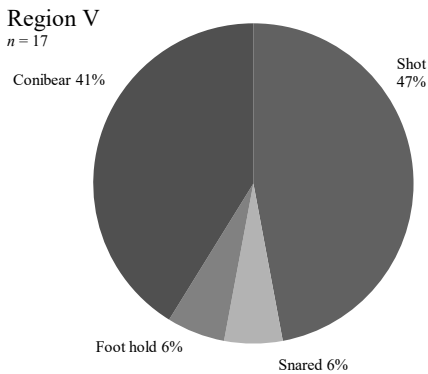
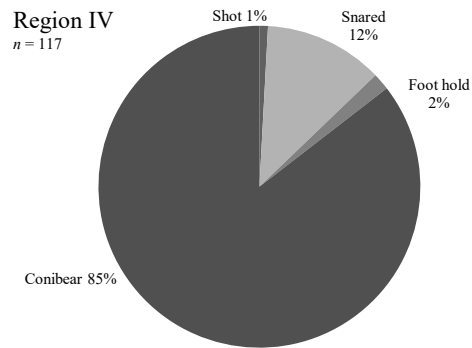
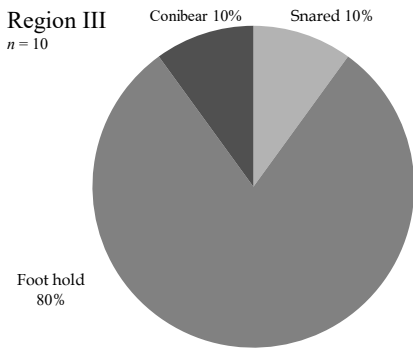
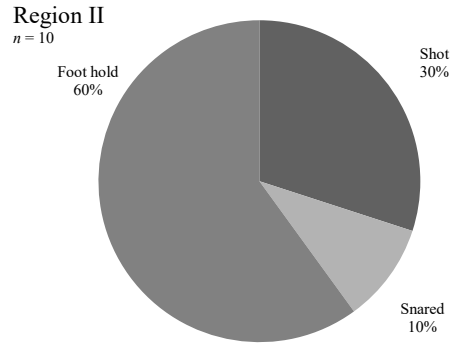


Figure 20. Muskrat harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

RED FOX

Region I
No harvest reported



Statewide Trends in All Fox (Arctic and Red) Harvest Methods

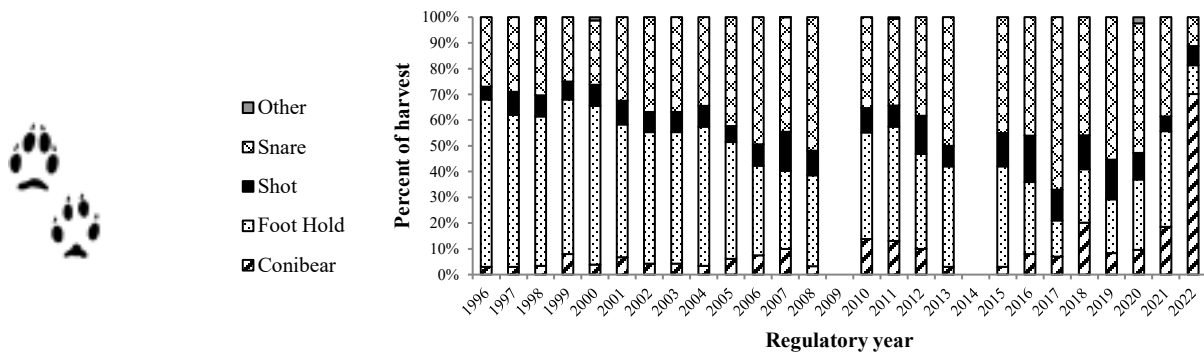
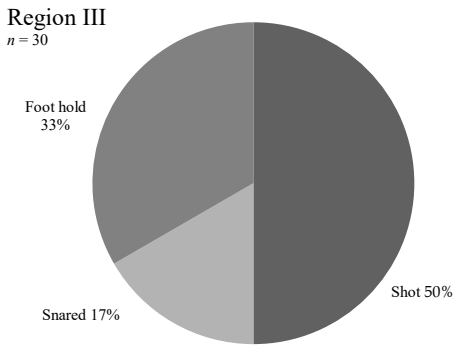
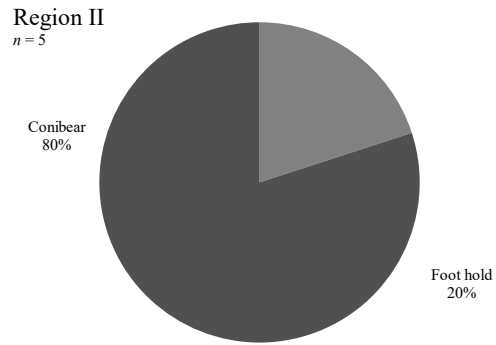
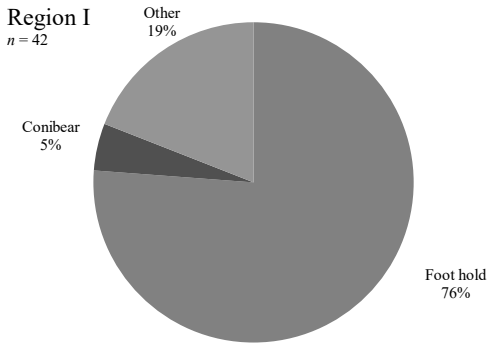


Figure 21. Red fox harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

RED SQUIRREL



Region IV
No harvest reported

Region V
No harvest reported

Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

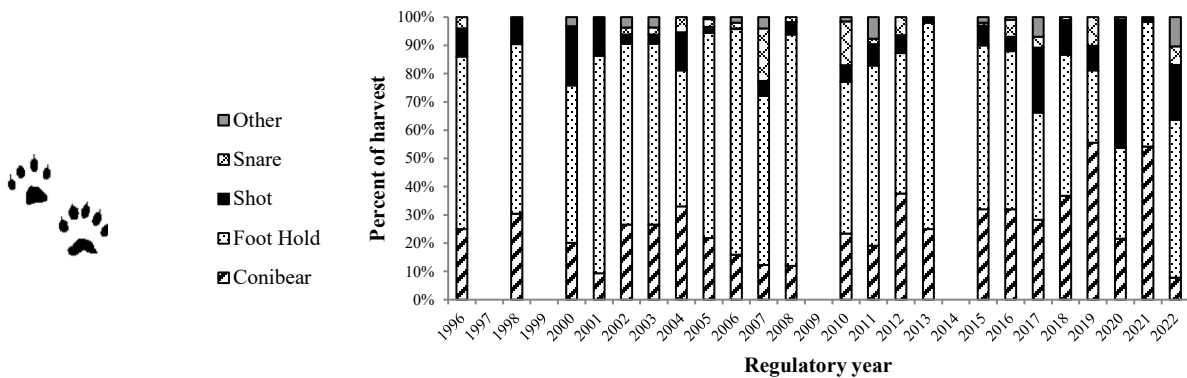
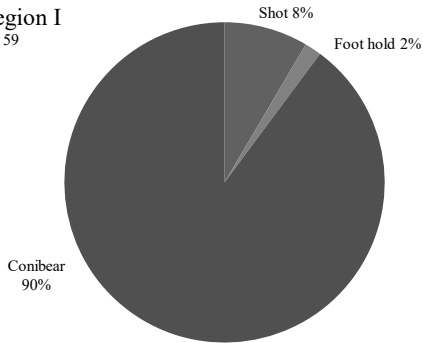


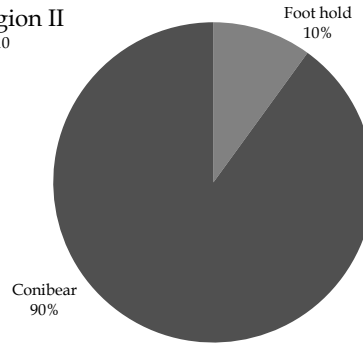
Figure 22. Red squirrel harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

RIVER OTTER

Region I
n = 59

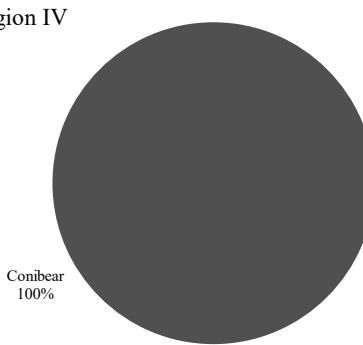


Region II
n = 10

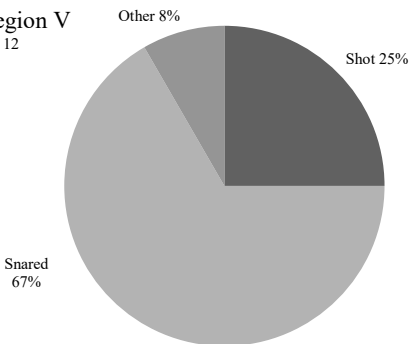


Region III
No harvest reported

Region IV
n = 7



Region V
n = 12



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

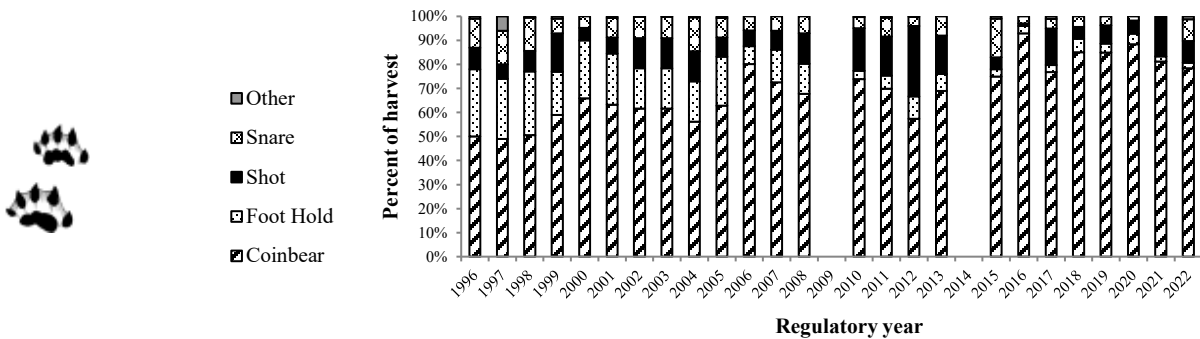
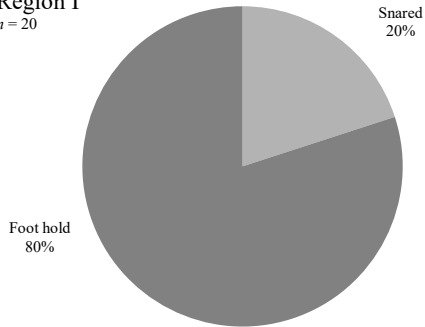


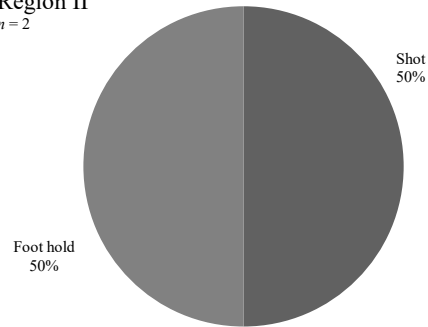
Figure 23. River otter harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

WOLF

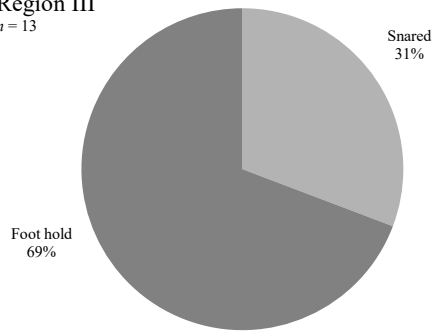
Region I
n = 20



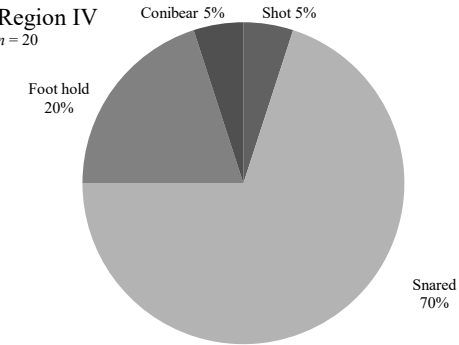
Region II
n = 2



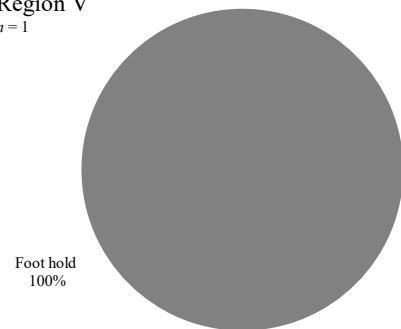
Region III
n = 13



Region IV
n = 20



Region V
n = 1



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

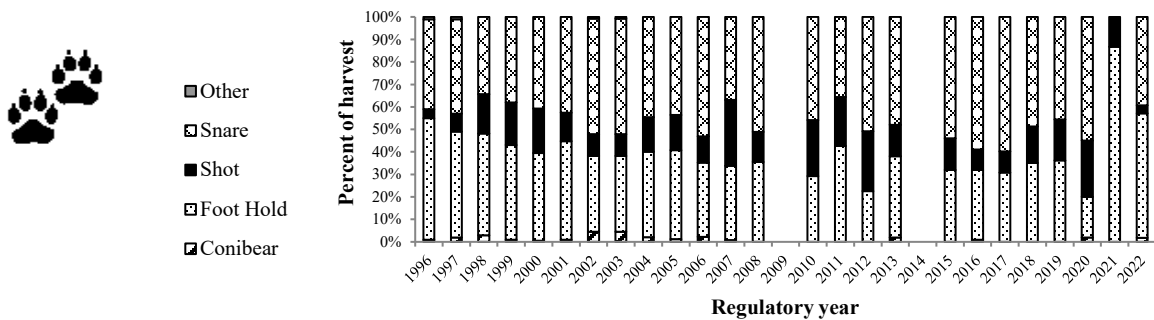
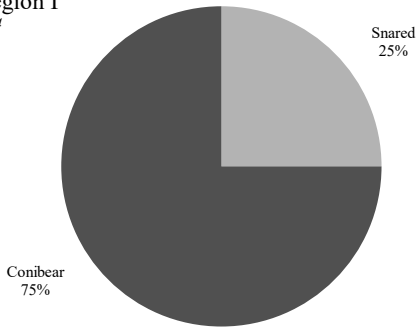


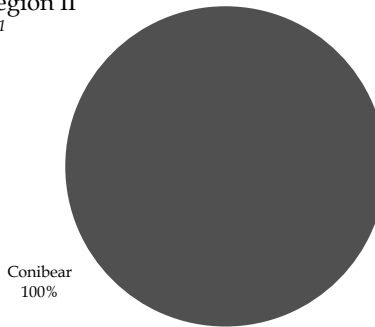
Figure 24. Wolf harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

WOLVERINE

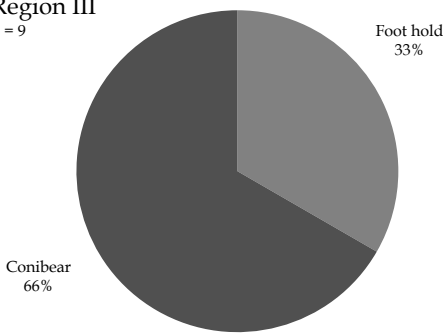
Region I
n=4



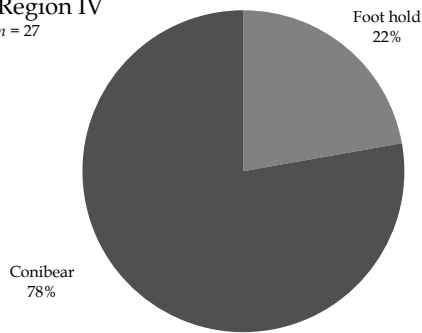
Region II
n=1



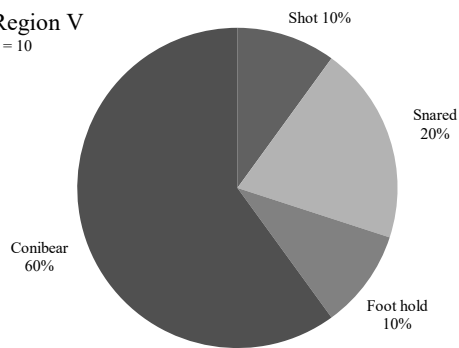
Region III
n=9



Region IV
n=27



Region V
n=10



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

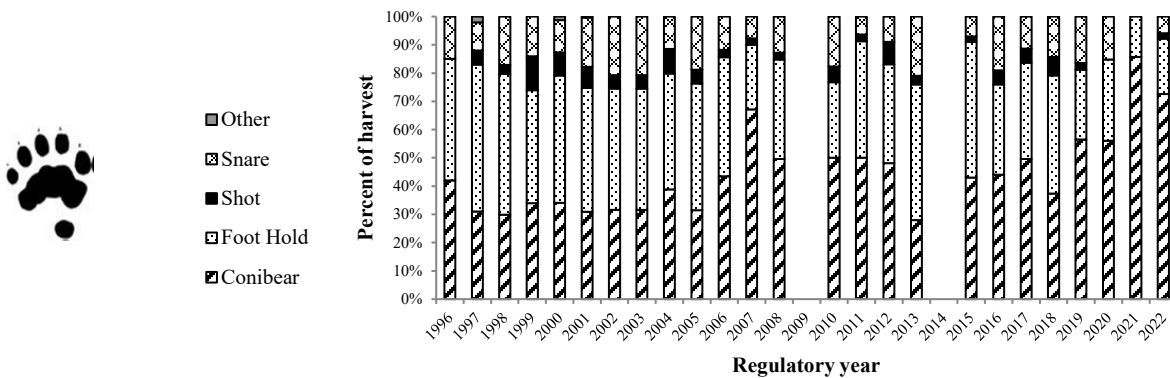


Figure 25. Wolverine harvest methods used by trappers, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

Species Relative Abundance and Population Trends

The species relative abundance index is based on work done with snowshoe hares in Alberta, Canada, by Christopher Brand and Lloyd Keith (1979¹). They compared the responses to a trapper questionnaire with their estimates of hare densities based on their fieldwork and found there was a good relationship between these 2 measures. They developed an index for the responses they received from trappers on the questionnaire. A numerical value was assigned to each of 3 responses, where 1 = scarce, 2 = common, and 3 = abundant. The value of the abundance index was derived from a mathematical equation that expressed the cumulative response value of trappers in a given region as a percentage of the range of possible values:

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

Where I = abundance index

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

n = number of trappers reporting

The abundance index (I) ranged 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, the index values were converted to the appropriate category: scarce, common, or abundant.

It is unknown if the same ranges of percentages are appropriate for animals in Alaska, as they were established for snowshoe hares in Alberta. However, this index does provide a way to compare trappers' interpretations of species abundance in a given area over time in general. That comparison is helpful when it is 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 “fewer” box was checked, 2 for the “same,” and 3 for “more” animals. The average was then calculated for all trappers in an area. Since we do not 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) in trend.

¹ Brand, C. J., and L. B. Keith. 1979. Lynx demography during a snowshoe hare decline in Alberta. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 43(4):827–849.

Due to the relatively small sample size in RY22, we presented species relative abundance and trend at a regionwide level rather than the game management unit (GMU) level. Sample sizes were too small to provide useful data at a smaller geographic scale.



Photo by Graham Gablehouse

Table 5. Regionwide relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

Species	Region I		Region II		Region III		Region IV		Region V	
	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 26	Trend <i>n</i> = 23	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 18	Trend <i>n</i> = 12	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 21	Trend <i>n</i> = 16	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 27	Trend <i>n</i> = 21	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 8	Trend <i>n</i> = 8
<i>Furbearers:</i>										
Arctic fox	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+
Beaver	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	–	abundant	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	common	+	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+
Ermine	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Fisher	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+
Lynx	not present	n/c	common	+	scarce	–	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Marten	common	–	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Mink	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	–	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Red fox	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Red squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
River otter	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	–	scarce	n/c	scarce	+
<i>Prey:</i>										
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+
Hare	scarce	n/c	abundant	+	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Mice/rodents	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	+

Note: *n* = total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend. Not all trappers provided information on every species. Abbreviations and symbols in this table represent the following: n/c = no change in trend, + = increase in trend, and – = decrease in trend.

Furbearer Harvest Report

Only 4 of the 14 species defined as furbearers are required to be sealed throughout Alaska: lynx, river otter, wolf, and wolverine. Marten, beaver, and fisher are required to be sealed in some units but not statewide. Table 6 shows the number of each species trappers reported harvesting in each subunit during the RY22 season. The letter Z indicates that while the unit was clear, the subunit was not specified. There were no reported results for fisher for RY22; therefore, fisher was not included in Table 6.

It would be helpful for ADF&G biologists to know the proportion of the actual total harvest that the questionnaire response numbers represent. For species that require sealing, the number sealed represents our best information about the statewide harvest. Table 7 provides the harvest totals reported on the questionnaire as a percentage of the total number sealed.



Photo by Brian McCorison

Table 6. Furbearer harvest as reported on the 2022 trapper questionnaire, Alaska.

Region	Subunit ^a	<i>n</i>	Arctic fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red fox	Red squirrel	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine
I	1A	6	0	6	0	0	0	6	20	0	0	37	12	10	0
	1B	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	0	0	0	1	1	4
	1C	3	0	7	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
	1D	5	0	0	1	7	0	6	0	0	0	8	1	0	0
	1Z	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2Z	8	0	7	0	0	0	28	1	0	0	0	5	9	0
	3Z	1	0	2	0	1	0	16	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
	4Z	13	3	17	0	0	0	239	26	0	0	67	41	0	0
I Totals		39	3	49	1	8	0	305	56	0	0	112	61	20	5
II	6Z	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	7Z	2	0	3	3	4	0	16	1	0	0	4	2	0	1
	8Z	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0
	15A	1	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15B	3	0	0	7	0	15	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	0
	15C	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	15Z	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	0
II Totals		13	0	16	10	5	28	16	2	0	4	12	9	2	1
III	12Z	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	19C	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
	20A	3	0	7	1	2	3	9	0	0	2	0	0	5	0
	20B	9	0	15	0	8	3	95	2	0	1	43	0	3	0
	20C	1	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	15	0	0	1
	20D	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	20E	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	20Z	2	0	0	0	8	3	25	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
	25C	3	0	0	0	2	0	42	0	0	0	7	0	0	4
III Totals		22	0	22	2	22	13	213	2	0	5	65	0	9	8
IV	9B	2	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0
	9C	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	9E	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	2	1
	9Z	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	11Z	4	0	0	0	2	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	13B	1	0	0	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	13D	4	0	15	1	8	27	3	0	0	3	0	1	2	3
	13E	3	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	1	3
	13Z	3	0	0	3	1	9	5	0	0	4	0	3	3	0
	14A	3	0	1	6	1	1	9	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
	14C	2	0	0	0	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16A	2	0	0	0	2	0	15	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	

-continued-

Table 6. Page 2 of 2.

Region	Subunit ^a	<i>n</i>	Arctic fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red fox	Red squirrel	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine
IV	16B	3	0	0	0	1	2	20	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	17C	4	0	4	0	0	0	13	1	0	1	0	2	0	3
	17Z	1	0	2	1	0	1	3	0	0	7	0	0	8	14
IV Totals		35	6	22	13	21	57	77	6	8	37	0	9	20	26
V	18Z	8	0	37	1	0	0	15	22	5	6	0	17	1	4
	22A	3	0	0	1	0	4	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	2
	22B	2	0	2	0	2	3	7	1	0	4	10	0	0	4
V Totals		13	0	39	2	2	7	22	24	5	13	10	17	1	10
Unknown		6	0	0	0	2	10	5	0	0	6	1	28	0	0
Statewide		128	9	148	28	60	115	638	90	13	65	200	124	52	50

^a The letter Z indicates that while the unit was indicated on the survey, the administrative subunit was not specified.

Table 7. Trapper questionnaire reported harvest as a percent of total number sealed, by species and region where sealing was required, regulatory year 2022, Alaska.

Region	Percent of RY22 species harvest reported in questionnaire						
	Beaver	Fisher	Lynx	Marten	River otter	Wolf	Wolverine
I	25	0	0	22	26	11	20
II	9	–	12	9	5	7	5
III	100	–	5	100	0	2	3
IV	10	–	24	30	7	8	15
V	–	–	11	–	33	1	13
Statewide	25	–	14	37	20	9	9

Note: En dash (–) indicates there was no sealed harvest.



Photo by Jesse Ross

Furbearer Sealing Records Summary

Sealing refers to the placement of an official marker or locking tag (seal) by an authorized ADF&G representative on an animal hide and/or skull. The sealing process may also involve recording biological information about the animal and the conditions under which it was taken, taking measurements, and collecting biological samples. Lynx, river otter, wolf, and wolverine are required to be sealed statewide. Marten, beaver, and fisher are required to be sealed only in certain units. The harvest totals reported below are based on fur sealing records. Numbers reported in Table 8 may differ from previous reports because additional sealing forms have been turned in.



Photo from ADF&G Files

Table 8. Reported harvest from regulatory year sealing records, regulatory years 2017–2022, Alaska.

Species	Region	RY17	RY18	RY19	RY20	RY21	RY22
Beaver ^a	I	219	277	226	110	99	197
	II	132	195	157	115	125	170
	III	9	4	8	6	44	4
	IV	376	360	391	341	229	220
	V	0	0	0	3	0	0
	Total	736	836	782	575	497	591
Fisher ^b	I	5	5	1	3	2	1
	II	0	0	0	0	0	0
	III	0	0	0	0	0	0
	IV	0	0	0	0	0	0
	V	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	5	5	1	3	2	1
Lynx	I	1	16	25	30	9	6
	II	11	15	15	49	141	233
	III	2,384	2,608	1,783	1,496	423	272
	IV	367	647	993	966	411	234
	V	368	84	179	215	187	66
	Total	3,131	3,370	2,995	2,756	1,171	811
Marten ^c	I	2,914	2,858	1,381	1,761	927	1,361
	II	123	58	84	215	141	185
	III	0	0	0	0	2	7
	IV	470	209	275	555	259	253
	V	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	3,507	3,125	1,740	2,531	1,329	1,788
River otter	I	292	288	237	202	149	237
	II	158	142	146	102	154	185
	III	53	66	64	27	29	35
	IV	183	149	104	171	118	122
	V	271	61	78	68	24	51
	Total	957	706	629	570	474	630
Wolf	I	192	146	311	175	154	189
	II	40	24	34	17	39	29
	III	586	463	507	544	365	513
	IV	255	336	232	254	125	237
	V	137	53	84	93	33	96
	Total	1,210	1,022	1,168	1,083	716	1,064
Wolverine	I	29	27	12	26	22	25
	II	27	31	28	26	23	20
	III	226	247	219	264	214	249
	IV	144	128	99	173	130	169
	V	65	62	106	65	79	78
	Total	491	495	464	554	468	541

^a Beaver are required to be sealed in game management units (GMUs) 1–11, 13–15, and 17.

^b Fisher are required to be sealed in GMUs 1–5.

^c Marten are required to be sealed in GMUs 1–7 and 14–16.



Photo by Sara Germain

Commercial Transactions Involving Furs

AVERAGE PRICES PAID FOR RAW FURS

Prices published by one or both of the major fur auction houses (North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc.) during January–July in each of the previous 5 years were averaged to produce the prices in Table 9. Top prices were from the Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc. Unfortunately, RY22 data from both auction houses were not available. Top prices are reflected by the most recent data (RY21). Prices for RY21 were obtained from the RY21 July, March, and June auction house prices.

Table 9. Average fur prices published by the North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc., for the last 5 regulatory years, 2018–2022, Alaska.

Species	Average price (U.S. dollars) ^a					Top Price RY21 (U.S. dollars)
	RY18	RY19	RY20	RY21 ^b	RY22	
Arctic fox	34.10	–	–	51.10	–	111.00
Beaver	12.91	13.52	13.21	10.17	–	77.00
Coyote	77.18	75.52	50.40	47.70	–	138.00
Ermine	2.61	1.30	1.70	2.05	–	9.70
Fisher	32.16	–	–	24.87	–	38.00
Lynx	79.59	–	43.21	69.04	–	160.00
Marten	44.09	–	20.69	30.54	–	70.00
Mink (wild)	9.07	–	–	5.69	–	14.50
Muskrat	3.73	2.90	2.54	5.07	–	7.50
Red fox	14.50	19.90	–	7.87	–	39.00
Squirrel	0.53	0.80	0.32	1.72	–	2.75
River otter	22.15	–	15.85	–	–	–
Wolf	168.54	120.47	111.73	264.50	–	860.00
Wolverine	291.95	195.66	239.05	346.56	–	710.00

Note: The RY18 column is the only column that includes price data from both the North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc. The remaining columns (RY19–Top Price RY21) represent data from only the Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc.; North American Fur Auction data were not available. En dashes (–) indicate that data were not available.

^a Prices are averages from data published by one or both of the major fur auction houses (North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc.) during January–July in each regulatory year.

^b Prices for RY21 were obtained from the RY21 July, March, and June Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc. prices.

MINIMUM ESTIMATED FUR VALUE

Table 10 below summarizes the minimum total estimated value of furs trapped during the 2022–2023 season (RY22). Again, due to the lack of data availability from the North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc., the data below does not accurately portray total values. Average prices were obtained from the previous year’s (RY21) data. The minimum total value was \$587,355.70, with wolf and wolverine accounting for more than half of that total. 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. For beaver, fisher, lynx, marten, river otter, wolf, and wolverine, we used number of furs sealed. That means beaver, fisher, and marten values are certainly underestimated because the table includes only animals harvested from the areas in the state where sealing is required. For species that were not sealed, the number of furs is the harvest reported by trappers on the questionnaire.

Table 10. Minimum value of furs harvested in Alaska by species, regulatory year 2022.

Species	Total number sealed or reported ^a	Average price (U.S. dollars) ^b	Minimum value (U.S. dollars) ^c
Arctic fox	9	51.10	459.90
Beaver	591	10.17	6,010.47
Coyote	2	47.70	95.40
Ermine	60	2.05	123.00
Fisher	1	24.87	24.87
Lynx	811	69.04	55,991.44
Marten	1,778	30.54	54,300.12
Mink	90	5.69	512.10
Muskrat	13	5.07	65.91
Red fox	65	7.87	511.55
Red squirrel	200	1.72	344.00
River otter	630	–	–
Wolf	1,064	264.50	281,428.00
Wolverine	541	346.56	187,488.96
Total minimum value			587,355.70

Note: An en dash (–) indicates data not available. This table is intended to provide an estimate of fur values in Alaska and does not represent fur revenue nor does it accurately portray actual total values.

^a For beaver, fisher, lynx, marten, river otter, wolf, and wolverine, we used the number of furs sealed only. For species that were not sealed, the number of furs in this column represents the harvest reported by trappers on the questionnaire.

^b Due to a lack of RY22 data availability from the North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc., average prices were obtained from RY21 data.

^c Average fur auction prices were used to calculate fur value.

Fur Sealing Requirements

An authorized ADF&G representative must seal lynx, river otter, wolf, or wolverine taken anywhere in the state; marten in GMUs 1–7 and 14–16; fisher in GMUs 1–5; and beaver taken in GMUs 1–11, 13–15, and 17. If you ship furs of these animals to a buyer or auction house out of state, the furs must be sealed before you ship them.

If there is no authorized sealer near you, contact the nearest ADF&G office. A list of area biologists is provided in the next few pages. We can help you make arrangements to seal your furs. If you or someone you know would like to become a fur sealer, please contact one of the regional fur sealing officers listed in the next few pages.

- ❦ There are federal licenses and permits needed to ship within or outside the country. Please check with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if you intend to ship fur out of Alaska to another country, such as Canada. If you intend to ship a wolf, lynx, or river otter skin (raw or tanned) out of the country (for example, from Alaska to a fur dealer in Canada), you must get a federal wildlife export permit—also called a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species permit, or CITES permit—a federal import/export license, and arrange for inspection of all furs by a federal agent.



Photo by Dan Eacker



Photo by Christopher Ferrieri

Regional ADF&G Fur Sealing Officers

Region I
(GMUs 1–5)

Paul Converse
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 110024
Juneau, AK 99811-0024
(907) 465-4354

Region II
(GMUs 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15)

Erik Bollerud
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518
(907) 267-2357

Region III
(GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26B,C)

Sara Longson
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 459-7205

Region IV
(GMUs 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 17)

Keeley Wall
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1800 Glenn Hwy #4
Palmer, AK 99645
(907) 746-6396

Region V
(GMUs 18, 22, 23, and 26A)

Christopher Ta
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 1148
Nome, AK 99762
(907) 443-2271

Area Biologists and Game Management Units

<p>GMU 1(A), 2 Ross Dorendorf (AAB: Tessa Hasbrouck) 2030 Sealevel Drive Suite 205 KETCHIKAN, AK 99901 Phone: (907) 225-2475 Fax: (907) 225-2771</p>	<p>GMU 1 (B), 3 Frank Robbins (AAB: none) P.O. Box 667 PETERSBURG, AK 99833 Phone: (907) 772-5235 Fax: (907) 772-9336</p>	<p>GMU 4 Steve Bethune (AAB: none) 304 Lake Street Room 103 SITKA, AK 99835-7563 Phone: (907) 747-5449 Fax: (907) 747-6239</p>
<p>GMU 1(C), 1(D), 5 Carl Koch (AAB: vacant) P.O. Box 110024 JUNEAU, AK 99811-0024 Phone: (907) 465-4266 Fax: (907) 465-4272</p>	<p>GMU 6 Charlotte Westing (AAB: none) P.O. Box 669 CORDOVA, AK 99574 Phone: (907) 424-3215 Fax: (907) 424-3235</p>	<p>GMU 7, 15 Nick Fowler (AAB: Jason Herreman) 34828 Kalifornsky Beach Rd Ste B SOLDOTNA, AK 99669-8367 Phone: (907) 260-2905 Fax: (907) 262-4709</p>
<p>GMU 8 Nate Svoboda (AAB: Bill Dunker) 211 Mission Road KODIAK, AK 99615 Phone: (907) 486-1880 Fax: (907) 486-1869</p>	<p>GMU 9, 10 Amy Vande Voort (AAB: Evelyn Lichwa) P.O. Box 37 KING SALMON, AK 99613 Phone: (907) 842-1559 Fax: (907) 246-3309</p>	<p>GMU 11, 13 Heidi Hatcher (AAB: Dayton Rosenberg) P.O. Box 47 GLENNALLEN, AK 99588 Phone: (907) 822-3461 Fax: (907) 822-3811</p>
<p>GMU 12, 20(E) Jeff Gross (AAB: Aidan Hunter) P.O. Box 355 TOK, AK 99780-0355 Phone: (907) 883-2971 Fax: (907) 883-2970</p>	<p>GMU 14(A), (B), 16 (A), (B) Chris Brockman (AAB: Gerrit Van Diest) 1800 Glenn Hwy Suite 4 PALMER, AK 99645-6736 Phone: (907) 746-6325 Fax: (907) 746-6305</p>	<p>GMU 14(C) Dave Battle (AAB: Cory Stantorf) 333 Raspberry Road ANCHORAGE, AK 99518-1565 Phone: (907) 267-2185 Fax: (907) 267-2433</p>
<p>GMU 17 John Landsiedel (AAB: Evelyn Lichwa) P.O. Box 1030 DILLINGHAM, AK 99576 Phone: (907) 842-1599 Fax: (907) 842-5937</p>	<p>GMU 18 Patrick Jones (AAB: Keith Oster) P.O. Box 1467 BETHEL, AK 99559 Phone: (907) 543-2979 Fax: (907) 543-2022</p>	<p>GMU 19, 21 (A), (E) Josh Peirce (AAB: vacant) P.O. Box 230 MCGRATH, AK 99627 Phone: (907) 524-3323 Fax: (907) 524-3324</p>
<p>GMU 20(A), (B), (C), (F), 25(C) Tony Hollis (AAB: Jeff Wells) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: (907) 459-7233 Fax: (907) 459-7332</p>	<p>GMU 20(D) Bob Schmidt (AAB: vacant) P.O. Box 605 DELTA JUNCTION, AK 99737 Phone: (907) 895-4484 Fax: (907) 895-4833</p>	<p>GMU 21(B), (C), (D), 24 Glenn Stout (AAB: Cade Kellam) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: (907) 459-7218 Fax: (907) 459-7332</p>
<p>GMU 22 Sara Henslee (AAB: Alicia Carson) P.O. Box 1148 NOME, AK 99762 Phone: (907) 443-2271 Fax: (907) 443-5893</p>	<p>GMU 23 Christie Osburn (AAB: none) P.O. Box 689 KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 Phone: (907) 442-1712 Fax: (907) 442-2420</p>	<p>GMU 25 (A), (B), (D), 26 (B), (C) Mark Nelson (AAB: Jordan Pruszenski) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: (907) 459-7242 Fax: (907) 459-7332</p>
<p>GMU 26 (A) Carmen Daggett (AAB: none) P.O. Box 1284 BARROW, AK 99723-1284 Phone: (907) 852-3464 Fax: (907) 852-3465</p>	<p>RI Regional Supervisor – Tom Schumacher (907) 465-4359 RI Management Coordinator – Roy Churchwell (907) 465-4267</p>	<p>RII Regional Supervisor – Cyndi Wardlow (907) 267-2177 RII Management Coordinator – Jeff Selinger (907) 267-2529</p>
<p>RIII Regional Supervisor – Lincoln Parrett (907) 459-7366 RIII Management Coordinator – Jason Caikoski (907) 459-7300</p>	<p>RIV Regional Supervisor – Tim Peltier (907) 861-2123 RIV Management Coordinator – Todd Rinaldi (907) 861-2105</p>	<p>RV Regional Supervisor – Tony Gorn (907) 267-2421 RV Management Coordinator – Phillip Perry (907) 443-8189</p>

Trapper Comments

We are looking for ways to improve the trapper questionnaire; please feel free to provide your suggestions. We are also interested in your ideas for trapping in Alaska. Below are responses trappers provided on the 2022 questionnaire to the following question: “Do you have any other comments or suggestions for ADF&G or the Board of Game on how trapping can be improved in Alaska?” Please note that any information that may have identified someone has been removed.

NO REGION INDICATED

- 🐾 In areas where there are leash ordinances. The ordinance should be enforced.
- 🐾 It would be good if otter season could start a week later and close a week latter. Also, Alaska Fish and Game should lobby the Feds for a sea otter season
- 🐾 Not at this time.
- 🐾 Was buying a moose tag on line, got trapping license on accident.
- 🐾 What happened to the marten and mink in the Wrangell area? Wrangell Island and adjacent mainland.

REGION I

- 🐾 A light trapper, I am appreciative of the state of Alaska trapping regs. I plan to trap a little in my retirement. I mostly trapped as a yungun.
- 🐾 Add a QR code to this website on the mail in card.
- 🐾 ADF&G needs to manage the GMU 2 wolf as their management plan states. Stop reducing the season length to please outside special interest groups. ADF&G needs to rebuild the trust of GMU 2 residents after admitting the wolf mangement is conducted with special interest groups taken into account.
- 🐾 Classes in Juneau.
- 🐾 Don't make us seal beavers in Southeast.
- 🐾 Educate the public on the benefits of trapping and inform them of the consequences of tampering with legal trapping operations and illegal trapping operations. The Juneau area alone has many people that have the best intentions of protecting the animals but the actions they take to do so are in blatant violation of regulations and even when challenged or charged will openly admit that they would do it again regardless of the regulations or law.
- 🐾 I appreciate the Department and its effort to gather information from trappers who spend a considerable amount of time in the field. I appreciate the freedom and ability to trap, it

has been a great joy and had the blessing of being able to take my two year old son and 1 your old daughter out with me on the line this year. Amazing experience. Thank you for all the work that is done to make this freedom a continued reality.

- 🐾 I didn't trap but want to in the future! I learned a lot watching others this year.
- 🐾 I had a great season and appreciate AK Fish and Game for their hard work.
- 🐾 I intended to trap but didn't have time to properly run a line so I didn't go.
- 🐾 I trapped with a friend.
- 🐾 I'm glad rifle hunt is allowed as trapping option.
- 🐾 In southeast alaska with the tough weather, we need a longer trapping season. Our traps froze, the weather was impossible to check. 1 month was not long enough.
- 🐾 Keep hoping fur price comes back.
- 🐾 Lengthen season for wolves in GMU 2.
- 🐾 Lengthen the wolf season on Prince of Wales island so we can stop hearing them complain about it every year.
- 🐾 Make sure people are not setting bear traps on north Douglas in the middle of winter like they did last year where it almost killed a dog.
- 🐾 More liberal seasons for Southeast Alaska!!! The seasons are WAY to short in this region!! Align the other water animals (otter and mink) seasons to coincide with the current beaver season opening and closing dates. Thus allowing trappers to retain any potential bycatch, during the beaver season!! This last suggestion CANNOT BE OVERSTRESSED ENOUGH!!!
- 🐾 More online videos on fur handling of all the Alaskan fur bearers and common trapping methods would be helpful for greenhorns. Otherwise doing great.
- 🐾 N/A
- 🐾 Over the years I've lost a least 2/3s of my trapline due to land sales.
- 🐾 Please extend the mink season to go with otter season, as my dad and I trap for mink and otter, sometimes catching a mink in an otter set. With the current policy, we'd be risking catching an illegal mink if we were to take advantage of the extended river otter season. Thank you.
- 🐾 Start trapping sea otters. There are way too many out there!!!!
- 🐾 Trapping for wolves in game management 2 can be improved by letting trappers have more than 30 days to trap wolves. But you already know that. That's why you won't let it

happen. Meanwhile, the rest of southeast Alaska get a full season. Doesn't really seem fair to everyone living in game management 2. And it's right in the middle of deer season so I have to decide whether or not I want to trap or harvest deer for my family and compete with all the other deer hunters out there and duck hunters at the same time for making my wolf sets. I caught 3 dogs last year because people were duck hunting and deer hunting with their dogs during the middle of wolf season in places people set wolf traps. Have a great day.

REGION II

- 🐾 Appreciate the effort you put out to provide the trapping endeavour. Thanks!
- 🐾 Continue resisting public pressure to limit access.
- 🐾 Educational program for us new trappers (Homer area).
- 🐾 Great program. Thank you.
- 🐾 I am for trapping but it should be more regulated. Trappers should be required by law to clearly mark traps with flagging tape and they should be required by law to place their AK Drivers License number with the trapline.
- 🐾 I am not a trapper but have recently thought seriously about trying it out. I buy the license as it gives me more options in the field.
- 🐾 I believe the use of cellular cameras for the purpose of monitoring traps sets should be legal. Use of cameras would increase the ethical basis of trapping and alert trappers of incidental catch of non-target species or pets.
- 🐾 I buy a trapping license every year just in case I get the opportunity or chance to learn how to trap. I cannot call myself a trapper because I have never done it.
- 🐾 I have never set a trap. I buy the hunting/fishing/trapping license to open all options, in case I get a desire to trap during the year, or invited out by someone actively trapping. Buying the license is one less thing I would need to do, should I decide to participate.
- 🐾 I have started using more snares in my trapping. The new materials for building snares makes them lighter and stronger than before. The snare, if set properly is a more humane way to catch an animal, especially lynx. I have been shocked at how fast a snared lynx dies. I hope to set a trail cam next year and record catching a lynx in a snare, to prove how quickly they die in a snare. I am not advocating making it a law to use snares, because snares can be a cruel weapon if set too large of a loop or too large of cable. I learn more every year about trapping and this last winter was no exception.
- 🐾 I support trapping.
- 🐾 Increased public awareness of trappers rights and trapping seasons directed towards non-trapping communities so they can be better aware and protect themselves and their pets.

- 🐾 Just don't let them take it away, I intend to teach my grandkids.
- 🐾 Liberalize otter seasons in coastal areas. Trapping otters in Nov, Dec and Jan is very difficult when boat is the only access due to being the worst weather of the year and darkest months of the year.
- 🐾 Limit the # of traps used in GMU 8. A year or 2 ago there was talk of a guy running over 200 traps in one area on the road system and totally decimated the red fox population, that is accessible without a plain or boat. Because of this every person I know that traps said they had a amazingly bad season for road system Kodiak Fox.
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No additional comments.
- 🐾 No changes suggested for this area.
- 🐾 No comments.
- 🐾 No comments.
- 🐾 No comments.
- 🐾 No. New to trapping.
- 🐾 None
- 🐾 None
- 🐾 None at this time.
- 🐾 None right now. I only buy the license to support trapping.
- 🐾 None.
- 🐾 Please do all you can to fight the attack on trapping.
- 🐾 Reasonable steps to improve the ability of the AWT to enforce trapping regulations, such as a requirement that trappers mark their sets, and the adoption of regulations intended to promote ethical trapping practices, reduce the take of non-target species and reduce

conflict with other user groups should be considered as part of an effort to protect our collective right to trap furbearers in Alaska.

- ❦ Require a trapper education course similar to the hunter education course for anyone trapping near multi-use areas or populated areas. If trappers don't start improving their public image the general public is going to continue voting away trapping.
- ❦ This was my first year trapping on my own. ADFG gave me the necessary tools to help me set up a successful trapline. I want to thank the Department for supplying me with the tools that I needed to have a good first year as a trapper. This might be a comment that the Department hears a lot, but the regulations are a bit tricky to understand and/or sometimes conflicting with other agencies (JBER & Chugach State Park). I called JBER to ask for permission to possibly set a trapline on base and I was told not to ask for permission since trapping hasn't been allowed there for a while, but on the regulations it still states that you can (also says call for permission). I did call Chugach State Park to see if they will supply me with a permit, but we did not have a good communication, so I missed my opportunity to trap in such area. Overall, I believe that the Department supplies every piece of information that is needed in order to make sure that things are legal and follow the regulations. Thanks for all you do.
- ❦ Was unable to get out this season, recovery from injury, unable to make it to where I normal trap with the weather conditions for this season.
- ❦ You could open up Powerline Pass from Indian Valley to snowmobiles by permit only. I could have a longer line and easier time getting there than hiking up.

REGION III

- ❦ Change sealing requirements: 30 days after the season vs 30 days after harvest. Saves trips to the sealing office to be compliant with the reg. Large game like moose and caribou do not require a seal, reporting online is an excellent method. This would be great if trapping seal requirements were aligned with large game reporting. Saves time/gas to seal a hide, especially for remote trappers. ADFG can ask the same questions on an online harvest report like the moose reporting system. No data is collected from the hide. I see no value in this sealing requirement for wolves especially.
- ❦ All traps should be marked with the trapper's name and trappers should register their line with ADFG (similar to bear baiting). There should be minimum distances set for all traps from communities, parking lots, and roads set by the Board of Game for public safety purposes. The establishment of registered lines should be considered for road system units.
- ❦ Doing a good job, keep it up. Help us keep our trapping rights and not lose out like a lot of states are experiencing.
- ❦ Doing a great job managing a precious and valuable resource. Thank you.

- 🐾 Don't let anti-trappers erode trappers rights. Stronger support for trappers and trapping.
- 🐾 Extended season in the interior would be helpful for some.
- 🐾 Fun first year trapping in Alaska! Thank you!
- 🐾 I am confused how I got a 2022 Trapper Questionnaire card. I didn't think I bought a trapping license last season, but maybe I messed up on my online order. I did not trap last season.
- 🐾 I buy a trapping license to support ADF&G and because the Alaska Trappers Association (I'm not a member) has a history of conservation and supporting wildlife habitat.
- 🐾 I got my trappers license thinking I would start trapping. I did not end up going out this year and got zero animals.
- 🐾 I got the license because I was going to learn to trap this year, but the time I had available did not work with the ice on the river, so could not.
- 🐾 I just got a license because my son sets a few traps around our property, just in case I might need to help him. He did not trap last year.
- 🐾 I think ADF&G does a great job of regulating the seasons.
- 🐾 Increase beaver trapping season timeframe in unit 20.
- 🐾 Interactive map showing the general population of animals across the map.
- 🐾 It'd be nice to somehow legally keep "new guys" or "people new to Alaska" who watch too much reality Alaska shows from trespassing on your trapline and setting traps next to your traps.
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 No questions.
- 🐾 Not at this time. Biggest challenge has been the change/shift in the weather. This year I set more conibear traps than spring traps. I also waxed my traps for the first time. I found the wax helped with the freezing problems.
- 🐾 Require trapping education for new trappers.
- 🐾 This year we couldn't trap all of the areas since they include the military land and a bunch of them were closed.
- 🐾 Trappers must register the trap line with ADFG or trappers association so other trappers and people recreating in the area leave trap lines alone. I had problems with another

trapper setting feet from my traps with flags and signs indicating my traps and trap line. Registering lines will help everyone.

- 🐾 You guys do an excellent job. I'm very happy with the regulations and the help of the ADFG staff with furbearer management.

REGION IV

- 🐾 Accessibility is always helpful to get further into the bush and away from town. I think alaksa has a wonderful trapping program.
- 🐾 Align and extend seasons to conclude at the same time. Example: Align marten and wolverine to end with lynx on 28 February in GMU 16.
- 🐾 Arctic fox... I screwed up. No arctic fox in the trapping unit. Comments: none at this time.
- 🐾 Honestly, in an era where everything is on YouTube, Forums, etc. and so much information is at people's finger tips, it is nice to have little to zero competition, a true trophy species, high abundance, endless solitude and a puzzle without an easy answer.
- 🐾 I accidentally hit Arctic Fox but that was supposed to be Red Fox.
- 🐾 I have never trapped. I just get everything on my license because it is my understanding that all license fees go directly to Alaska Fish and Game.
- 🐾 I would like to take responsibility for an abandoned trapper's cabin in the area. Then I could stay in the area longer, target more species and give a much better effort than trying to fly out with a tent and be put in a survival situation. I grew up trapping with my grandfather and would like to share the experience with my grandchildren. There is one in the area, but the state now possesses it as a trespass cabin and will not allow me to use it or apply for a permit to maintain it or use it. I'm afraid it's just going to decay into a pile of debris over the years.
- 🐾 Increase outreach to grow trappers and interest and work more with ATA to help.
- 🐾 Leash law enforcement to keep skijourer's dogs safe.
- 🐾 Lynx & wolverine season the same, coyote and wolf season the same.
- 🐾 NA
- 🐾 No
- 🐾 None
- 🐾 Nope
- 🐾 Nope. You are doing a great job. Please keep it up.

- ❧ Nope, I'm on the outside still. Not right to voice an opinion unless I'm an expert.
- ❧ Not now.
- ❧ Nothing specific. Did it as a child in another state. Obtained trapping license to support the industry and in hopes of getting out to it on my own.
- ❧ Nothing to mention.
- ❧ Open up aerial wolf hunting again in 16B.
- ❧ Repeal authorization for Intensive Management on wolves and prohibit as a predator control tactic; especially in Unit 13D that has extremely limited participation in moose hunting in the remote areas occupied by wolf packs. Much of the area is extremely difficult to access during the hunting season.
- ❧ Would like to see a trappers education program pushed by ADF&G. Also feel trapping licenses should be drastically reduced in price, try to incentivize trapping more.

REGION V

- ❧ Education and outreach. Alaska Trapper's Association is a great advocate.
- ❧ If we can increase bag limit for wolverine in unit 22 for shooting, not trapping.
- ❧ I'm still learning this trapping adventure. As of now it's doing good. The regulations are straight forward and easy to read.
- ❧ It seems that when Trapping comes in to conflict with other winter activities, trapping is not given the priority. Even though many trails and access points have been created by trappers. I'd like to see the rights of trappers a priority as this is a traditional and legal activity, or at least equal to those of other recreational pursuits.
- ❧ No
- ❧ No
- ❧ No
- ❧ No comment.
- ❧ No.
- ❧ None
- ❧ Remote cabins for trappers on federal or state land should be allowed. A small fee similar to mining claim fees would be just the same as someone paying rent to the state and confirming they don't own the land.
- ❧ Trapping helps with income for our region. BOG cannot help with the market as it is recovering since the scandemic.

Author's Note

I cannot thank ADF&G Information Services and our Division of Wildlife Conservation lead webmaster enough for their efforts and assistance in perfecting the online version of the questionnaire, compiling data, and running some of the analyses for this 2022 report.

I would also like to extend my thanks to everyone responding to the questionnaire. I hope we can continue to improve the questionnaire in a way that will lead to an increased response rate and more valuable information to those using this report. For many of the species involved in this report, you are our primary source of knowledge. Your responses are used to determine what is happening with the furbearers to better manage those populations for future generations to enjoy. Please continue to respond to the questionnaire in the future and encourage others to do the same. If you know of anyone who wants to receive future questionnaires, please have them contact me by phone or email (see below).



Photo by ADF&G

Lastly, I want to extend a special thanks to the trappers who provided pictures. It's important to document your efforts, especially to help pass along proper techniques to the next generation of trappers in Alaska. I greatly appreciate your willingness to share those experiences with me and with other trappers.

Thank you and good luck this season!

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