



Subsistence Overview

Presentation to the Alaska Board of Game
Wrangell, Alaska - January 2026



Lauren Sill and Emily Doll
RC 4 Tab 1.4



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ADF&G DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE

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Mission Scientifically gather, quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources. AS 16.05.094

C&T Customary and Traditional Uses

ANS Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence

NSA Nonsubsistence Area



Ethnographic interviews with a Gustavus resident, 2024



Overview of ADF&G Subsistence

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ADF&G SUBSISTENCE RESEARCH 3

-  Quantitative and qualitative research
-  Most projects are partnerships
-  Research guided by ethical principles
-  Participation is voluntary and confidential
-  Community review of draft data



Pelican Community Data Review Potluck, 2025



Overview of ADF&G Subsistence

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COMPREHENSIVE HOUSEHOLD HARVEST SURVEYS 4

Research Focus

- Methods of harvesting and processing
- Harvest and use estimates
- Sharing of wild foods
- Search areas
- Trends in resource use
- Demographics and income

 Goal: “holistic” understanding of mixed cash-subsistence economy, and subsistence ways of life



ADF&G researcher and local research assistant conduct a household harvest survey in Pelican, 2024



Overview of ADF&G Subsistence

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ETHNOGRAPHY

Semi-structured Interviews

Participant Observation

Life History Mapping



Key respondent interview, Unalaska, 2021



Participant observation in Slana River, 2013

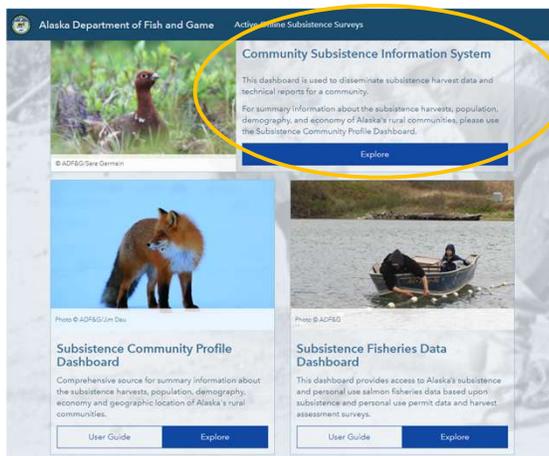


Life history mapping in Kodiak, 2023

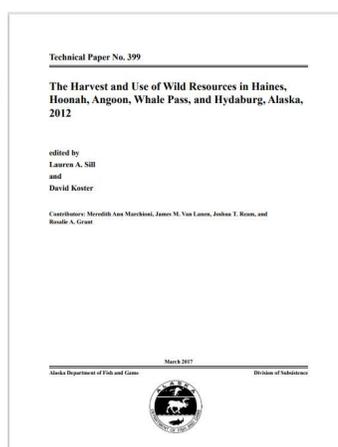
Overview of ADF&G Subsistence



FINDING SUBSISTENCE DATA



<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/>



<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>

Overview of ADF&G Subsistence



SUBSISTENCE REGIONS

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■ Northern Region
■ Southern Region

Emily Doll
Subsistence Resource Specialist 3

Molly Brown
Subsistence Resource Specialist 2

Southeast Region

Overview of ADF&G Subsistence

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SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGION

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Southeast Alaska Management Area

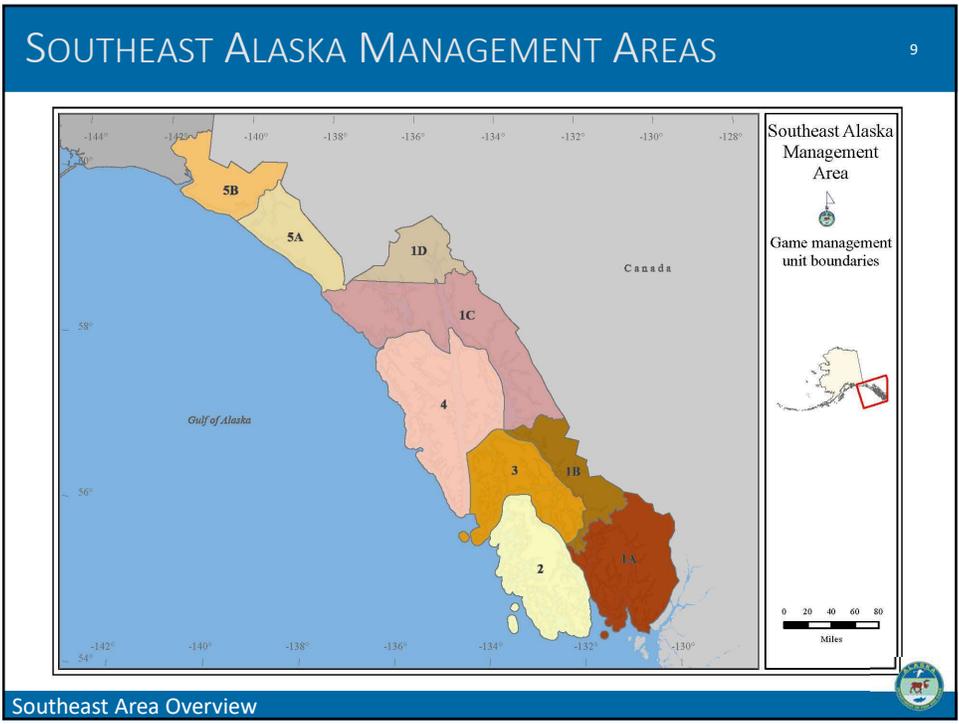
Overview of Southeast Alaska

- Community
- ▨ Nonsubsistence use area

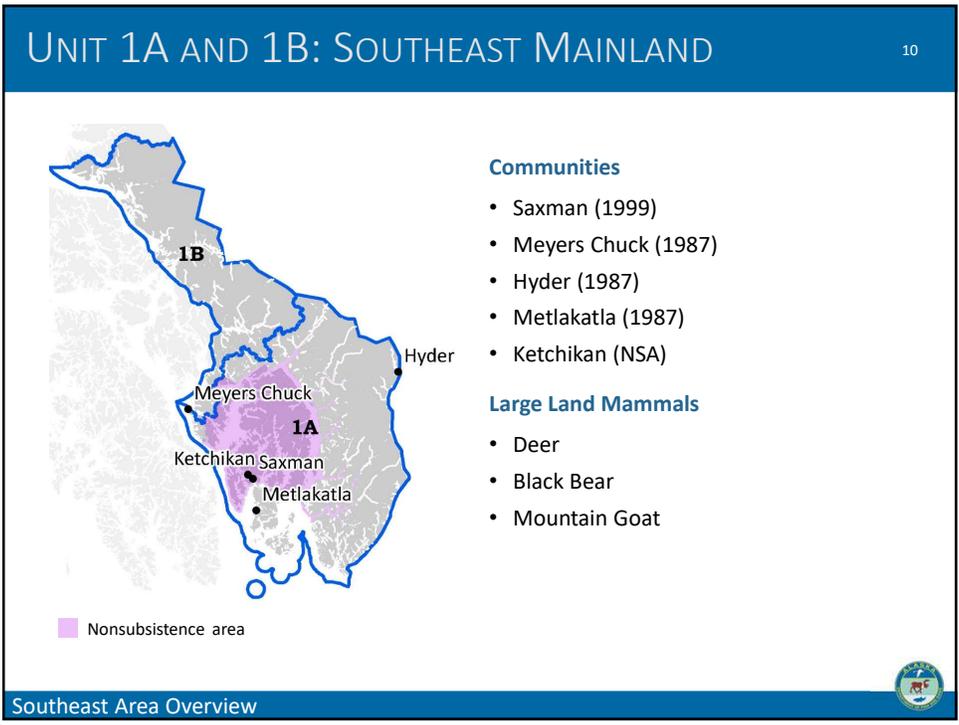
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Miles

Southeast Area Overview

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UNIT 1C AND 1D: SOUTHEAST MAINLAND

11

Communities

- Gustavus (2023)
- Klukwan (2014)
- Haines (2012)
- Skagway (1987)
- Juneau (NSA)

Large Land Mammals

- Deer
- Black & Brown Bear
- Moose
- Mountain Goat
- Wolves

Communities

- Gustavus (2023)
- Klukwan (2014)
- Haines (2012)
- Skagway (1987)
- Juneau (NSA)

Large Land Mammals

- Deer
- Black & Brown Bear
- Moose
- Mountain Goat
- Wolves

Southeast Area Overview

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UNIT 2: PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

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Communities

- Hydaburg (2012)
- Whale Pass (2012)
- Hollis (1998)
- Kasaan (1998)
- Coffman Cove (1998)
- Edna Bay (1998)

Large Land Mammals

- Deer
- Black & Brown Bear
- Mountain Goat
- Wolves

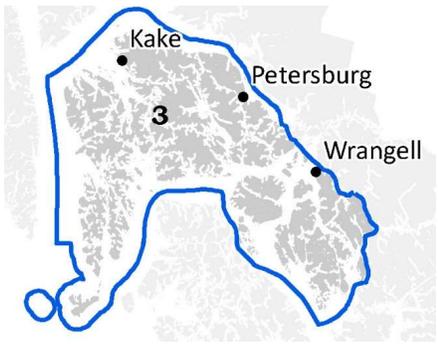
Communities

- Naukati Bay (1998)
- Thorne Bay (1998)
- Klawock (1997)
- Craig (1997)
- Point Baker (1996)
- Port Protection (1996)

Southeast Area Overview

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UNIT 3: PETERSBURG-WRANGELL 13



Communities

- Kake (2022)
- Petersburg (2000)
- Wrangell (2000)

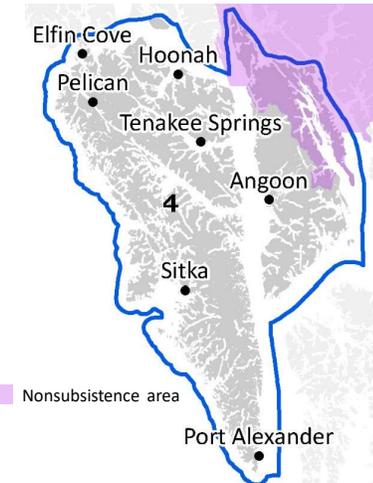
Large Land Mammals

- Deer
- Black & Brown Bear
- Moose
- Wolves

Southeast Area Overview

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UNIT 4: ADMIRALTY-BARANOF-CHICHAGOF ISLANDS 14



■ Nonsubsistence area

Communities

- Tenakee Springs (2023)
- Sitka (2013)
- Pelican (2023)
- Angoon (2012)
- Hoonah (2012)
- Elfin Cove (1987)
- Port Alexander (1987)

Large Land Mammals

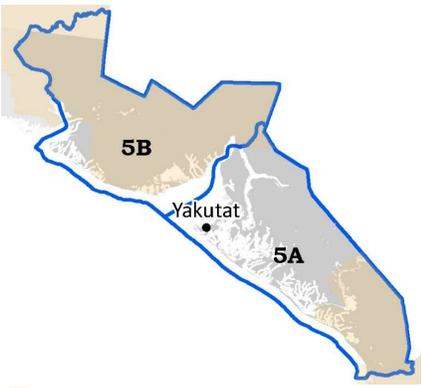
- Deer
- Brown Bear
- Mountain Goat

Southeast Area Overview

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UNIT 5: YAKUTAT

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- Communities**
 - Yakutat (2015)
- Large Land Mammals**
 - Deer
 - Black & Brown Bear
 - Moose
 - Mountain Goat
 - Wolves

National Park Service lands



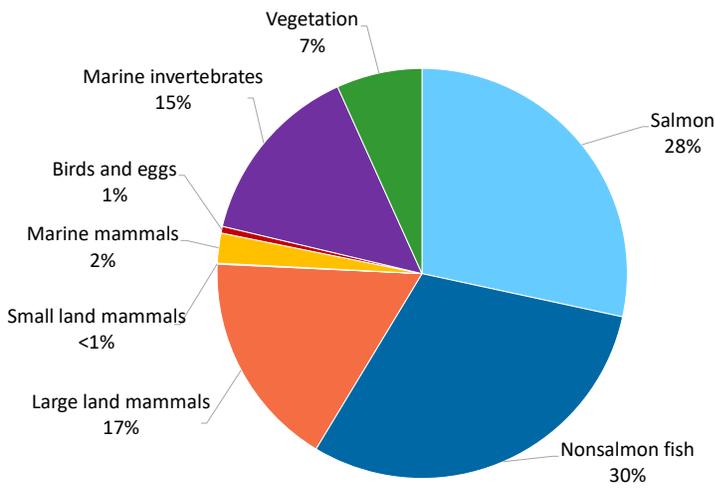
Southeast Area Overview

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HARVEST COMPOSITION

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Southeast Alaska total (outside of NSAs)

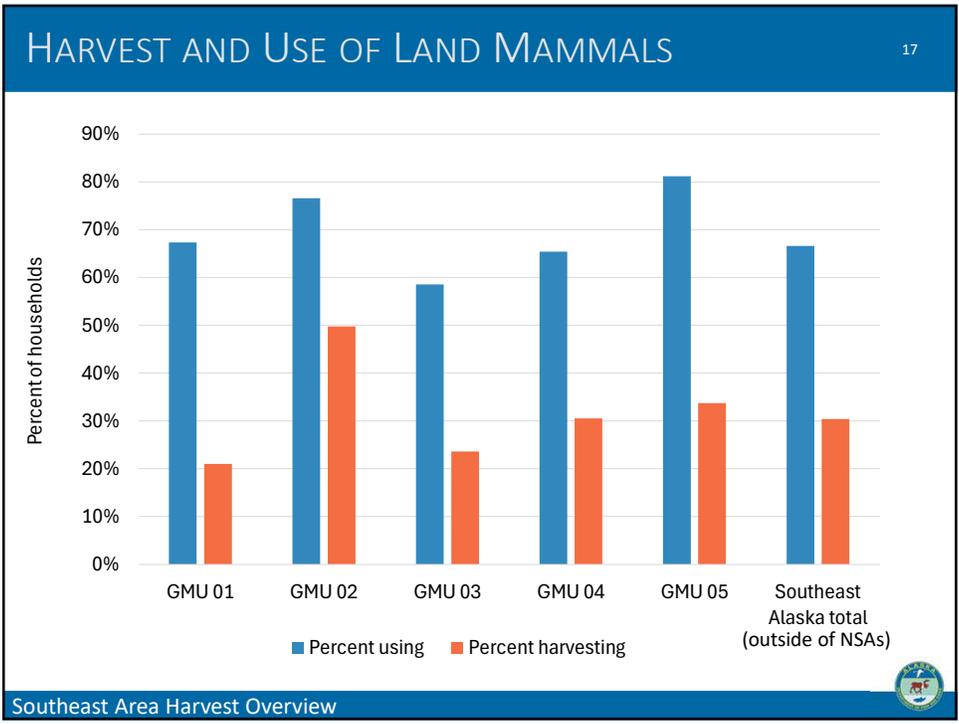


Category	Percentage
Salmon	28%
Nonsalmon fish	30%
Large land mammals	17%
Marine invertebrates	15%
Vegetation	7%
Marine mammals	2%
Birds and eggs	1%
Small land mammals	<1%

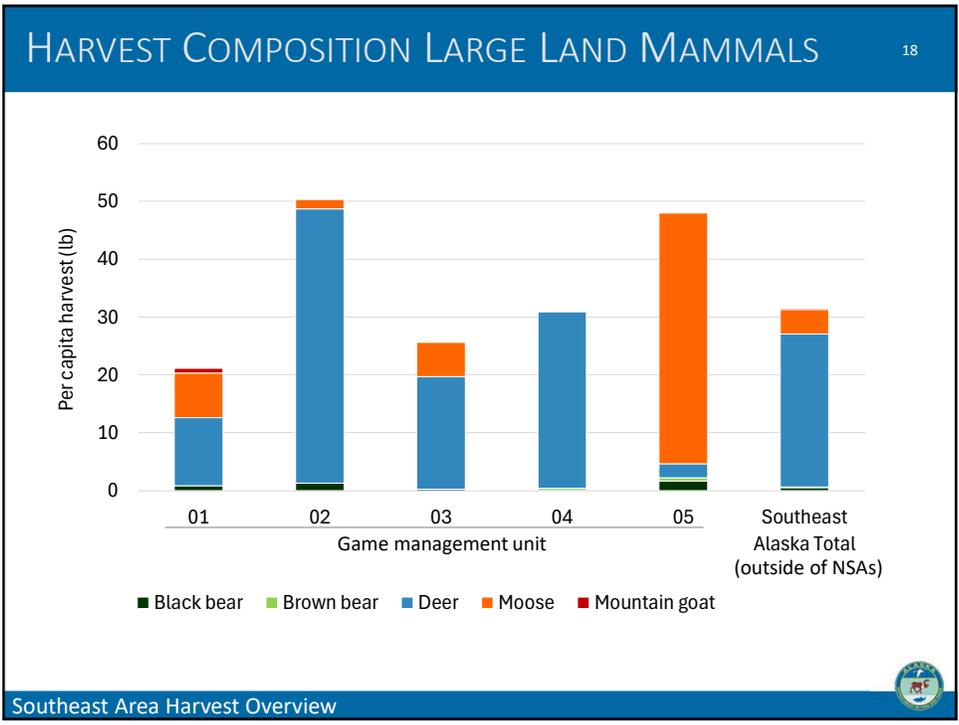


Southeast Area Harvest Overview

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ETHNOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW: DEER

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Deer is most highly harvested game species in Southeast Alaska

- **Harvest timing:** late summer/early fall through the winter
- **Methods:** hunting grounds are accessed by road, water, and by foot
- **Preservation:** eaten fresh, dried, frozen, canned, stock
- **Sharing** is important on both a community and region-wide level



ADF&G Photos

Deer: Ethnography



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SOUTHEAST DEER C&T FINDINGS

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Units	C&T Finding	ANS (#)
Unit 1A	Positive	5 - 40
Unit 1B	Positive	40 - 50
Unit 1C	Positive	30 - 40
Unit 2	Positive	1,500 – 1,600
Unit 3	Positive	150 - 175
Unit 4	Positive	5,200 – 6,000
Unit 5	Positive	20 - 40



ADF&G Photo

Deer: C&T and ANS



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ETHNOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW: MOOSE

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Moose are an important food source for residents of Southeast

- **Harvest timing:** fall through winter
- **Methods:** hunting grounds are accessed by road, water, air, and by foot
- **Preservation:** eaten fresh, frozen, dried, canned, stock
- **Sharing** occurs throughout the region
- **Processing** often a multi-household or community wide event



ADF&G Photos

Moose: Ethnography



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SOUTHEAST MOOSE C&T FINDINGS

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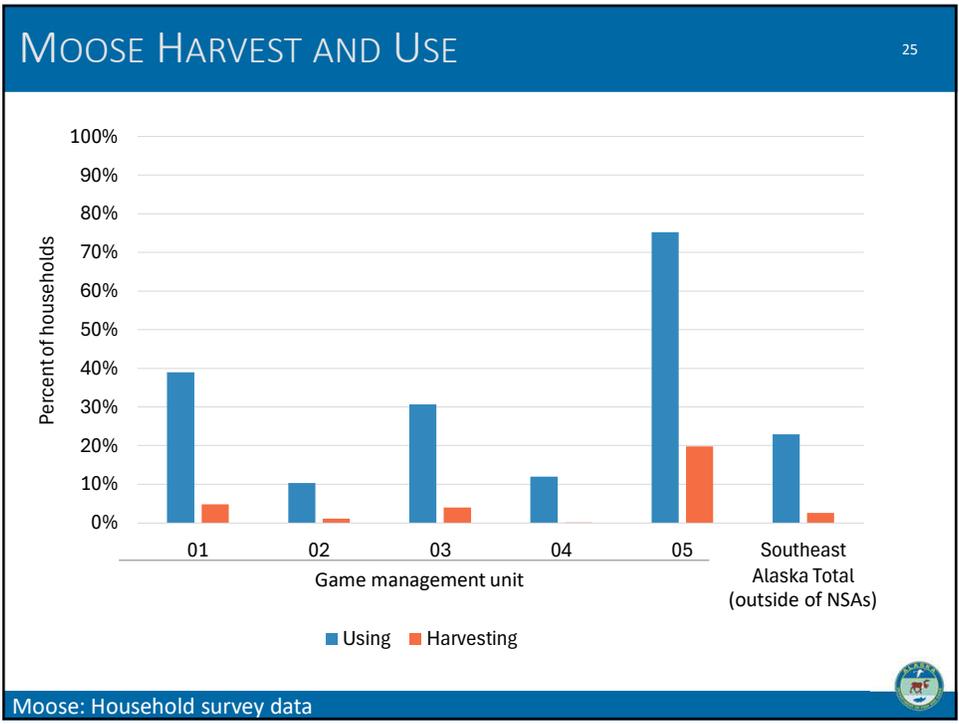
ADF&G Photo

Units	C&T Finding	ANS (#)
Units 1B, 3	Positive	40
Unit 1C	Negative	-
Unit 1D	Positive	100% of allowable harvest
Unit 5	Positive	50

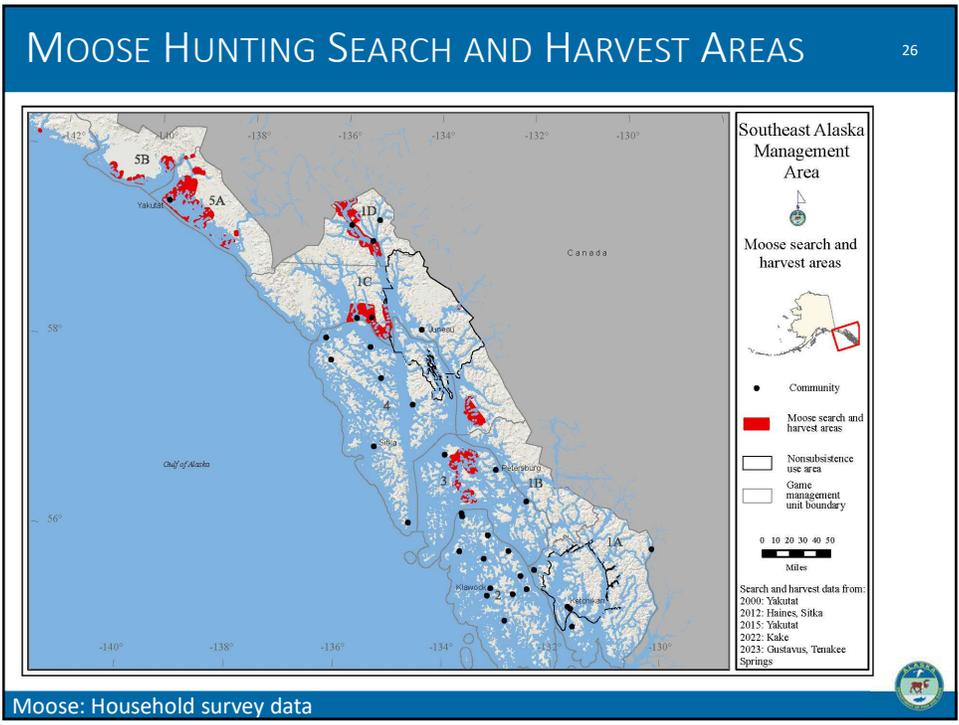
Moose: C&T and ANS



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ETHNOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW: BEAR

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Brown and black bear populate distinct areas within the Southeast region and fulfill unique roles for the harvesters who use them

- **Harvest timing:** fall and spring
- **Methods:** hunting grounds are accessed by road, water, and by foot
- **Preservation:** eaten fresh, frozen, canned, fat, furs
- **Sharing** is important



ADF&G Photo



Bear hide sealing at Juneau Municipal Airport

Bear: Ethnography



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SOUTHEAST BEAR C&T FINDINGS

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ADF&G Photo



ADF&G Photo

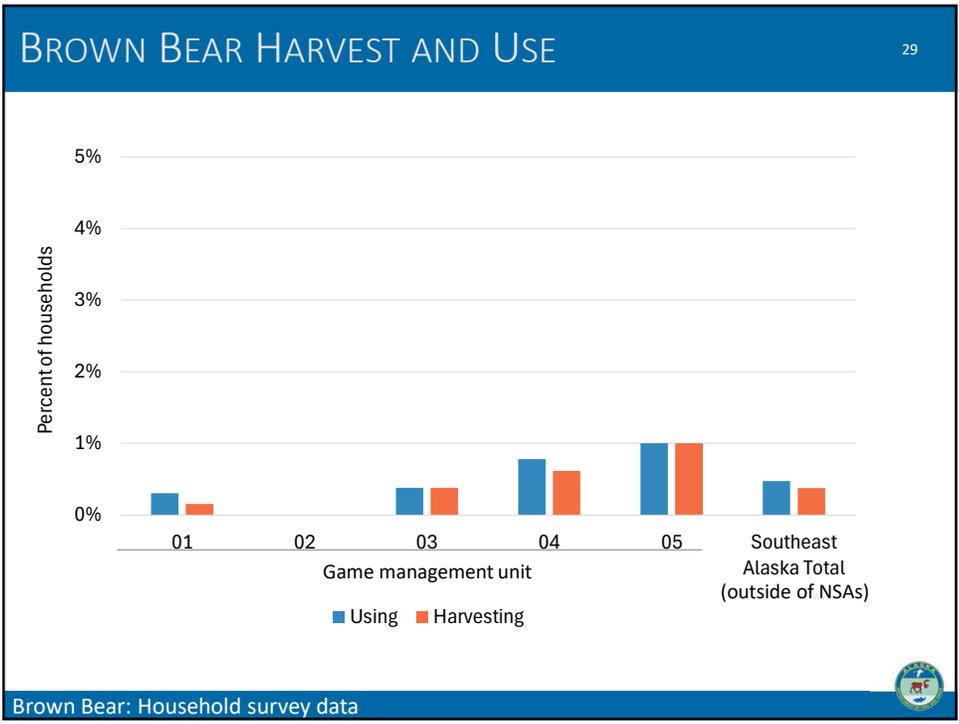
Brown Bear		
Units	C&T Finding	ANS (#)
Unit 1A	Positive	2 – 3
Units 1B, 3	Positive	1
Unit 1C	Positive	1
Unit 1D	Positive	3 – 5
Unit 4	Positive	5 - 10
Unit 5	Positive	3 – 6

Black Bear		
Units	C&T Finding	ANS (#)
Unit 1A	Positive	5 – 10
Units 1B	Positive	2 – 5
Unit 1C	Positive	50 – 70
Unit 1D	Positive	10 – 20
Unit 2	Positive	15 – 20
Unit 3	Positive	15 – 20
Unit 5	Positive	5 – 10

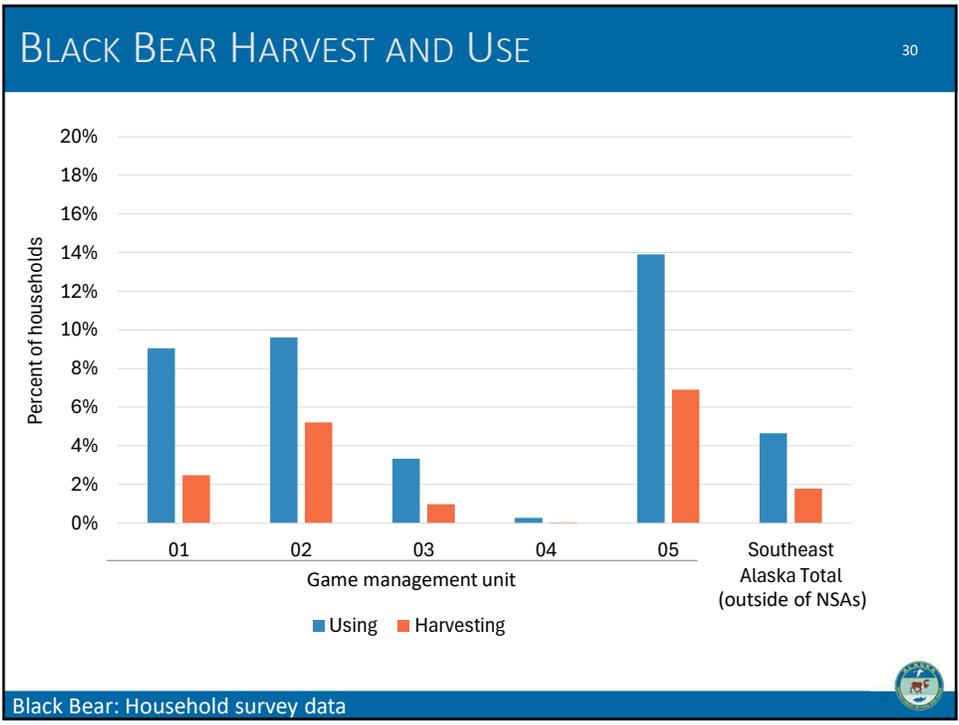
Bear: C&T and ANS



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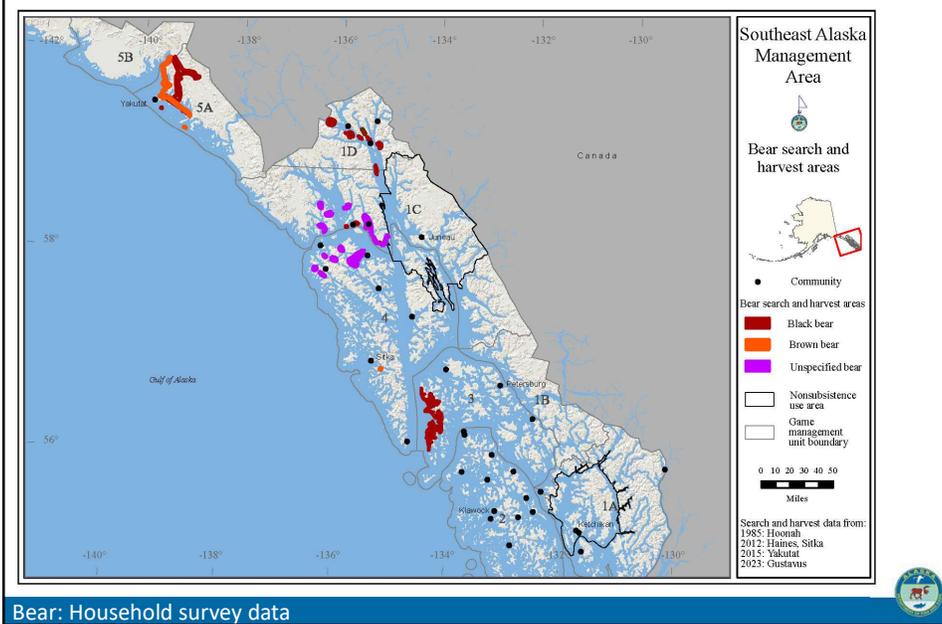
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BEAR HUNTING SEARCH AND HARVEST AREAS

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ETHNOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW: GOAT

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Mountain goat are valued by Southeast residents as a food source and a means of cultural connection

- **Harvest timing:** fall through winter
- **Methods:** by foot
- **Preservation:** eaten fresh, frozen, dried, canned, fat
- **Traditional arts** rely on wool for weaving and horns for carving
- **Sharing** occurs at a regionwide level



ADF&G Photo



Tlingit Chilkat robe by L. Allen. Photo credit Sealaska Heritage Institute.

Mountain Goat: Ethnography

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SOUTHEAST GOAT C&T FINDINGS



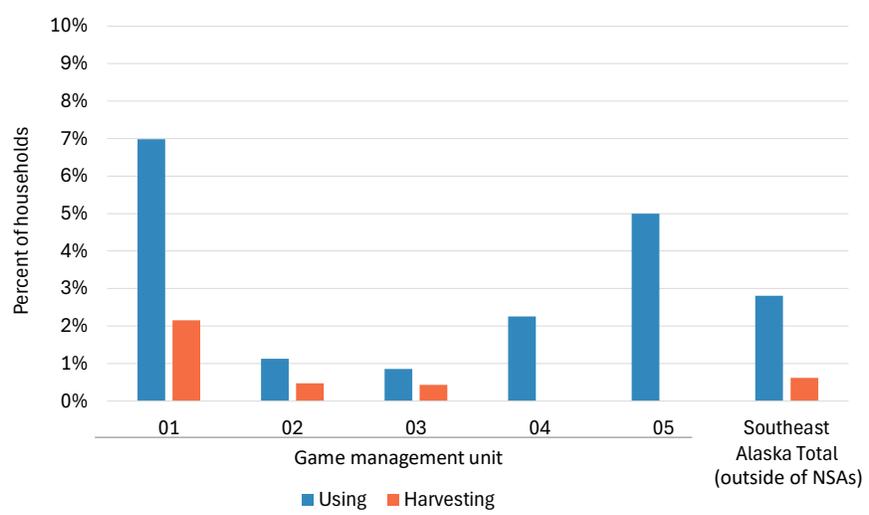
ADF&G Photo

Units	C&T Finding	ANS (#)
Unit 1A	Positive	5 - 10
Unit 1B	Positive	5 - 10
Unit 1C	Positive	25 - 30
Unit 1D	Positive	10 - 15
Unit 4	Negative	-
Unit 5	Positive	1 - 2

Mountain Goat: C&T and ANS



GOAT HARVEST AND USE

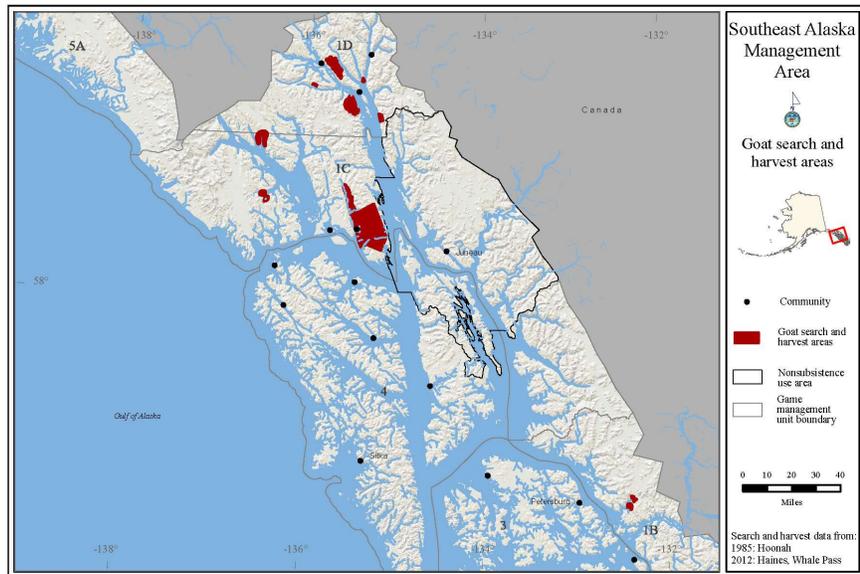


Mountain Goat: Household survey data



GOAT HUNTING SEARCH AND HARVEST AREAS

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Mountain Goat: Household survey data

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ETHNOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW: SMALL LAND MAMMALS

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A variety of small land mammal species are harvested by Southeast households for consumption, commercial sale, and cultural uses

- **Harvest timing:** Late fall through early spring
- **Methods:** trapping locations are reached by road, water, foot, or sled
- **Preservation:** eaten fresh, frozen, or canned, furs
- **Traditional arts** furs are incorporated into art, ceremonial objects, and clothing



ADF&G Photo



Haida spruce root hat with ermine pelt by Delores Churchill. Photo credit Sealaska Heritage Institute.

Southeast Small Land Mammals: Ethnography

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SMALL LAND MAMMAL C&T FINDINGS

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Furbearers		
Units	C&T Finding	ANS (#)
GMUs 1-5	Positive	90% of harvestable portion



ADF&G Photos

Wolves		
Units	C&T Finding	ANS (#)
GMUs 1-3, 5	Positive	90% of harvestable portion

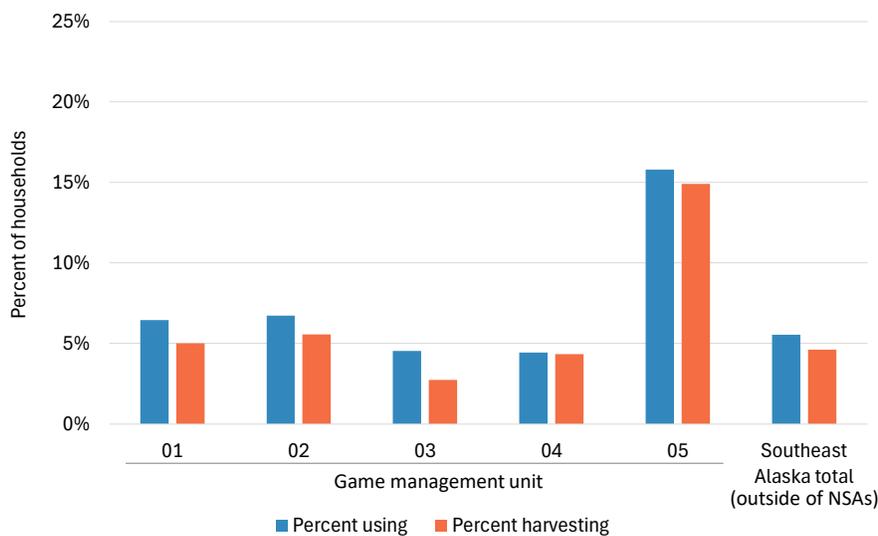
Southeast Small Land Mammals



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SMALL LAND MAMMAL HARVEST AND USE

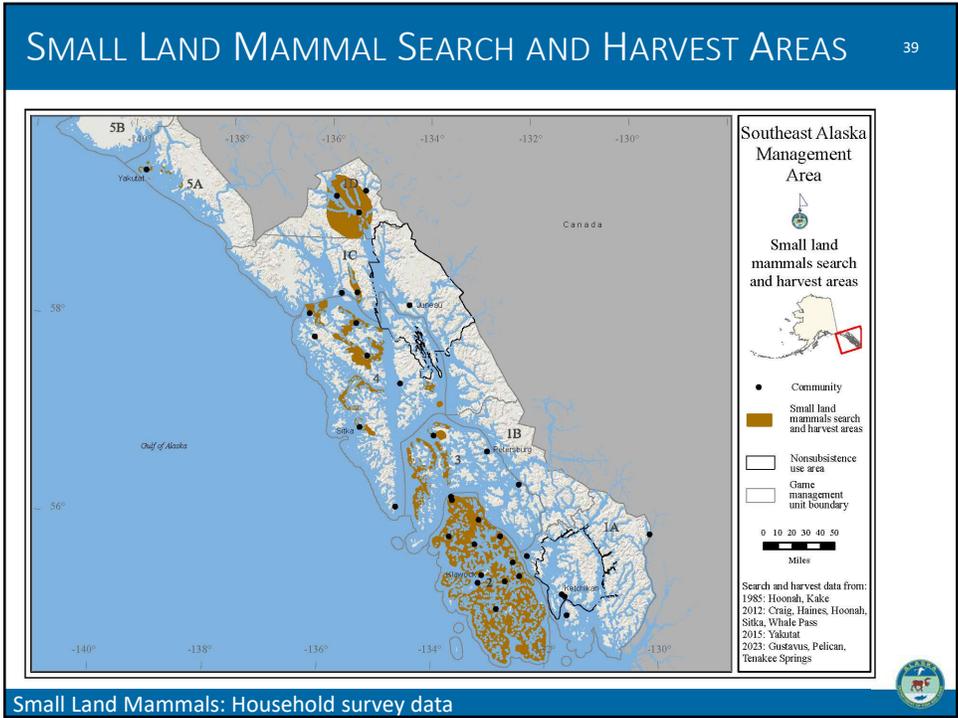
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Small Land Mammals: Household survey data



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ADF&G SUBSISTENCE WORK

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Partnerships

- Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- Sealaska
- Various local governments and tribal organizations

Project Proposals

- Central POW
- Salmon Permit Analysis and Harvest Location Distribution

Future Research Interests

- Subsistence deer harvests in GMU 2
- Subsistence harvests of mountain goats regionally
- Updated comprehensive household surveys

Ethnographic interviews with a Gustavus resident, 2024

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CONTACT US

Lauren Sill
Southern Region Program Manager
lauren.sill@alaska.gov
(907) 465-3617

Emily Doll
Southeast Subsistence Resource Specialist 3
emily.doll@alaska.gov
(907) 267-2368

Community Subsistence Harvest Information System
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/>

Division Technical Paper Series
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications>

Thank you to all the Southeast residents who participated in our research!



Division of Subsistence staff, Gustavus, 2024

