

2023-2024 Bear Regulations Cycle



Cody Norton
Wildlife Division
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Bear Management Goals

1. Maintain a sustainable population within biological carrying capacity
2. Facilitate bear-related benefits
3. Minimize bear-related conflicts
4. Conduct science-based and socially acceptable management



Bear Management Units

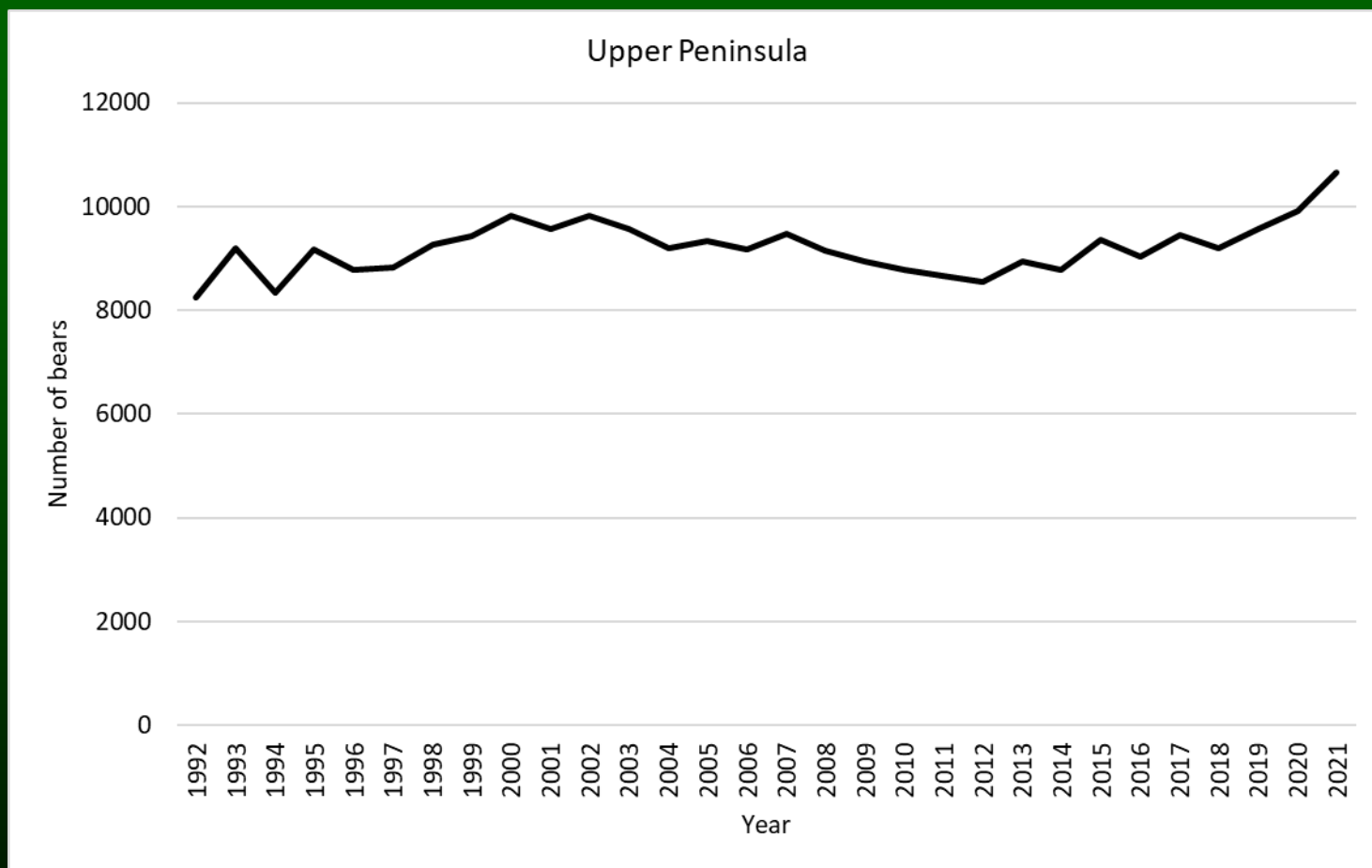


License Quotas and Regulations (2023-24)

- The Process
 - WLD field staff
 - LED staff
 - Internal Bear Workgroup
 - Tribal governments
 - Bear Forum
 - Natural Resources Commission & Director



2021 estimated pre-harvest abundance of bears 1 year old and older in the UP Region. SCAA analysis.

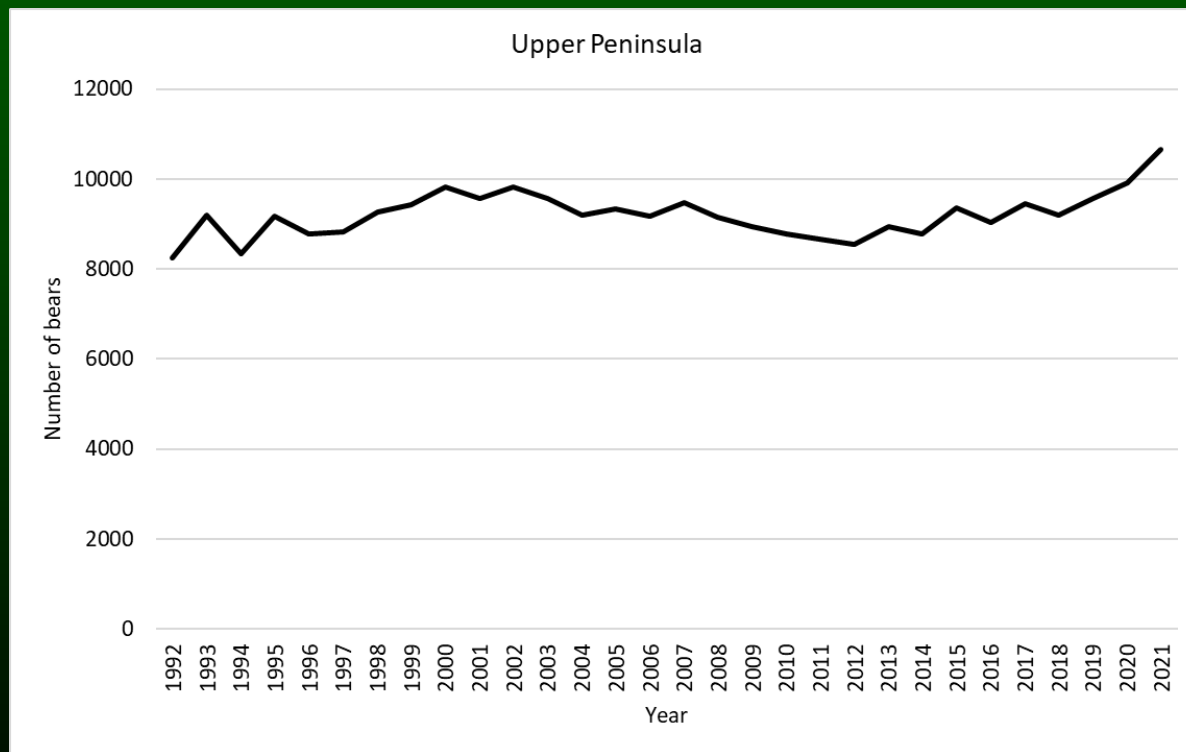


10,649 bears
in 2021. Up
25% since
2012

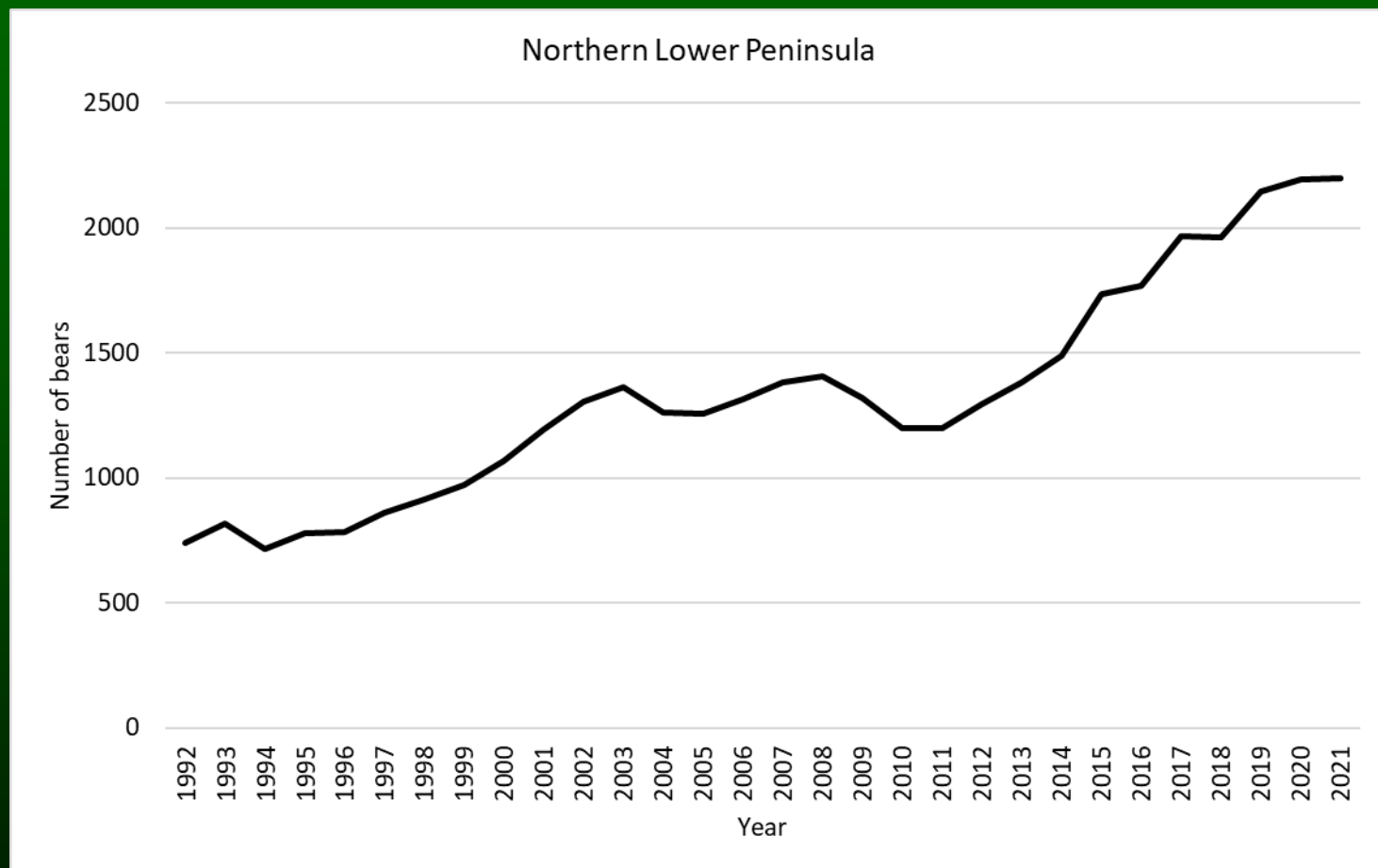


Upper Peninsula Population Trajectory Goal

- To continue to increase the bear population, but at a slower rate, by increasing harvest slightly



2021 estimated pre-harvest abundance of bears 1 year old and older in the NLP Region. SCAA analysis.

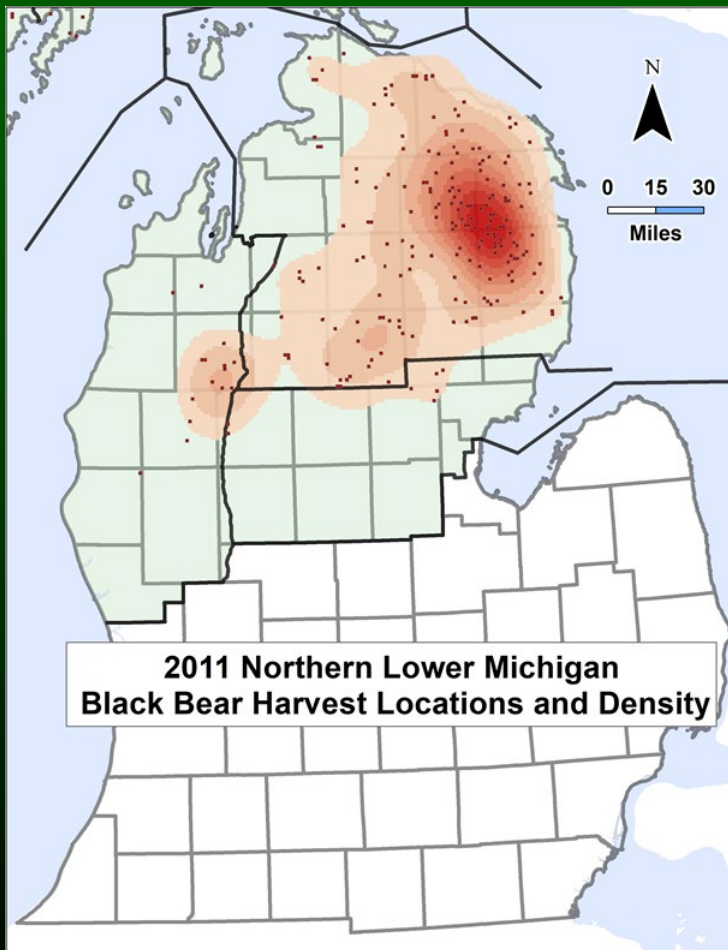


2,197 bears in
2020. Up 69%
since 2012



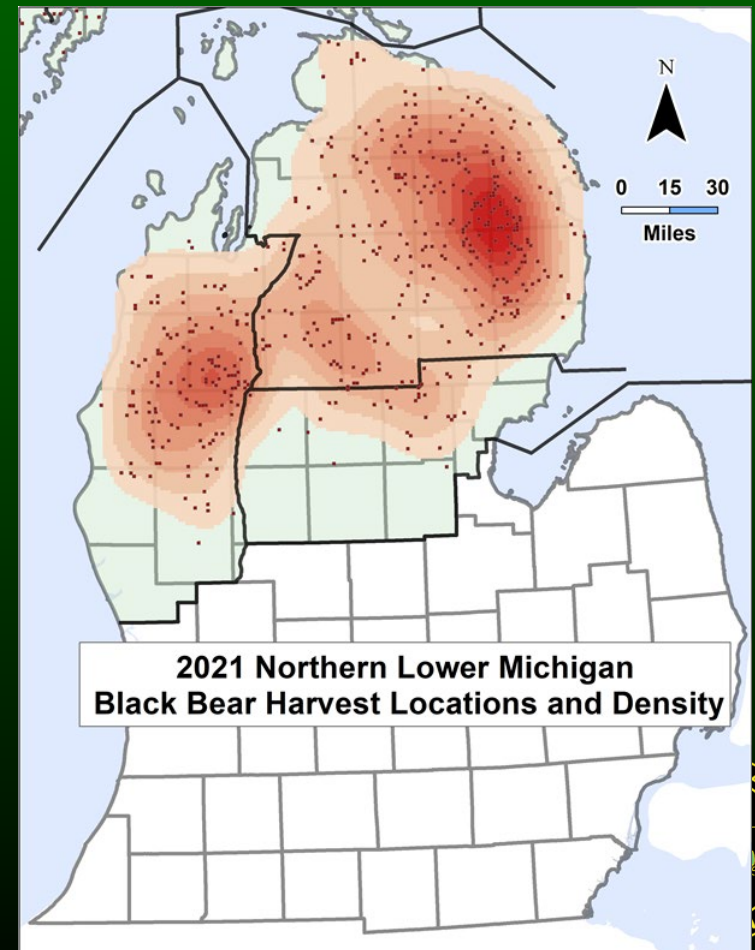
Expanding Distribution

7,800 mi²



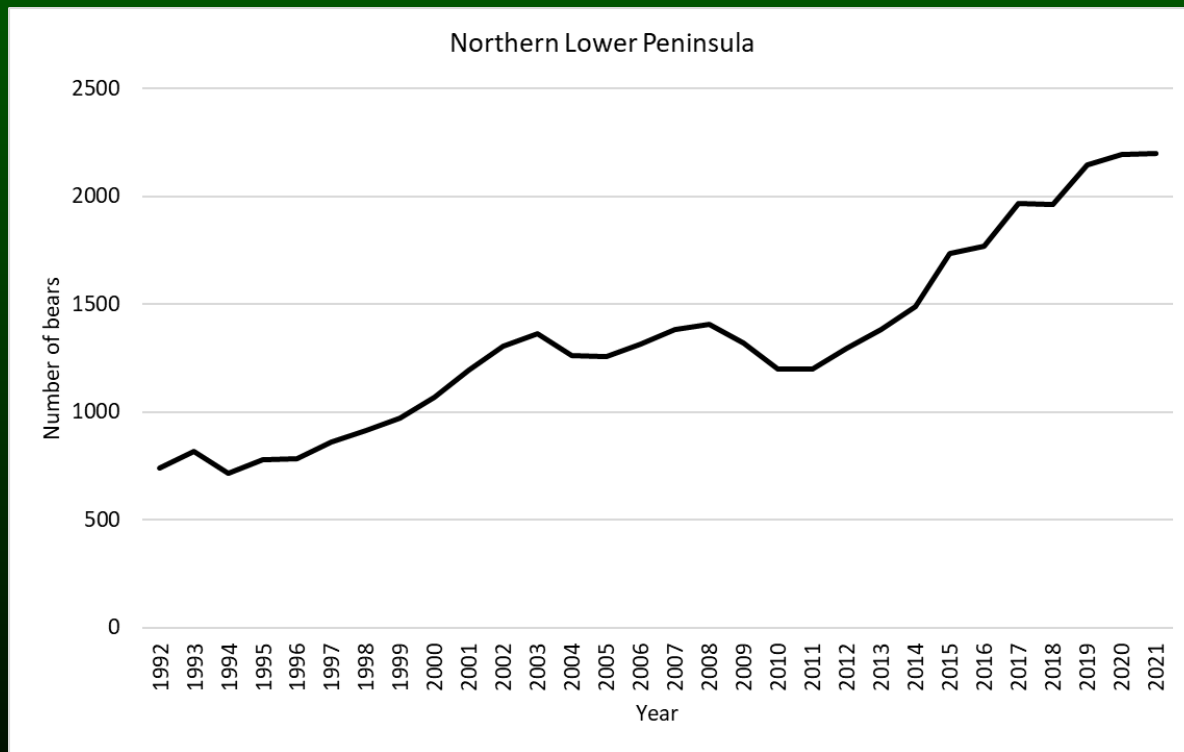
74%

13,600 mi²



Northern Lower Peninsula Population Trajectory Goal

- To slow the population growth to eventually achieve a stable population



Other Indices and Information Considered

- Hunter effort
- Hunter success rates
- Harvest density
- Nuisance bear activity
- Habitat and mast
- Stakeholder opinion



2022 Statewide Harvest (State Licensed Hunters)

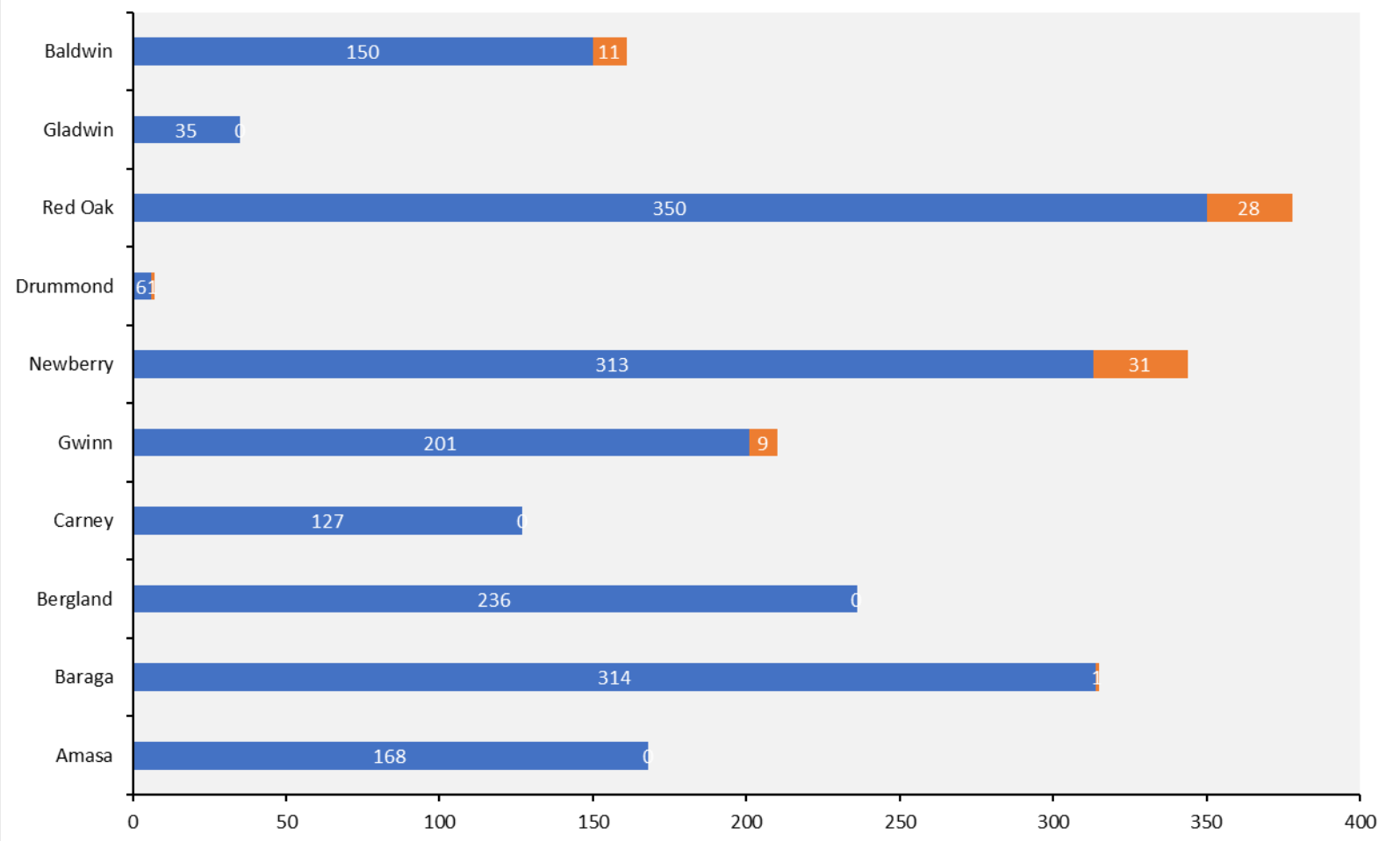
- 1,903 bears harvested statewide
- Up 2% from 2021 (1,863)
- Approximately 12% above the 10-year average
- Very good success rates in many BMU's





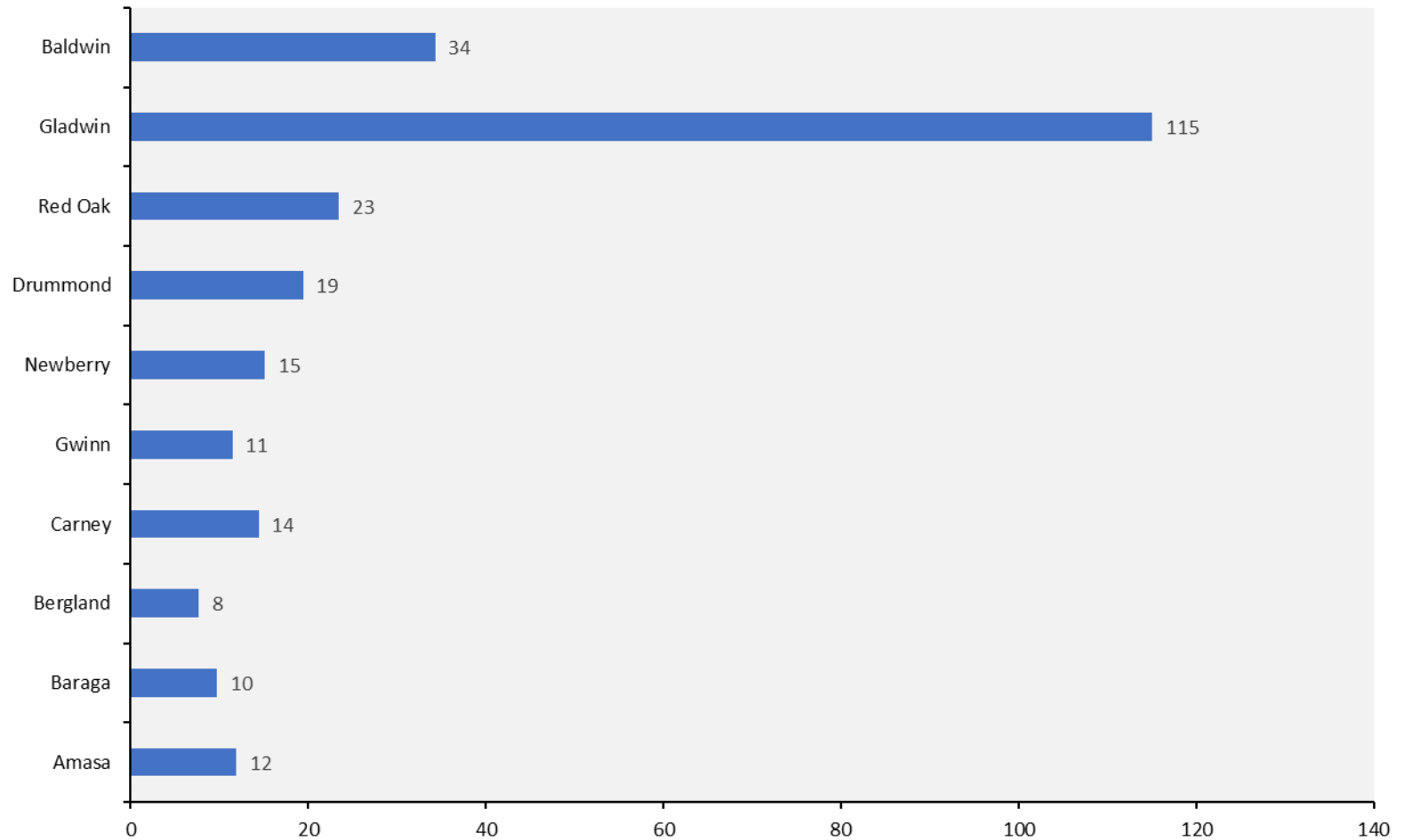
2022 Registered Harvest

■ State ■ Tribal





2022 Square miles / harvested bear State and Tribal



Statistics from 2021 Bear Hunter Survey (Frawley)

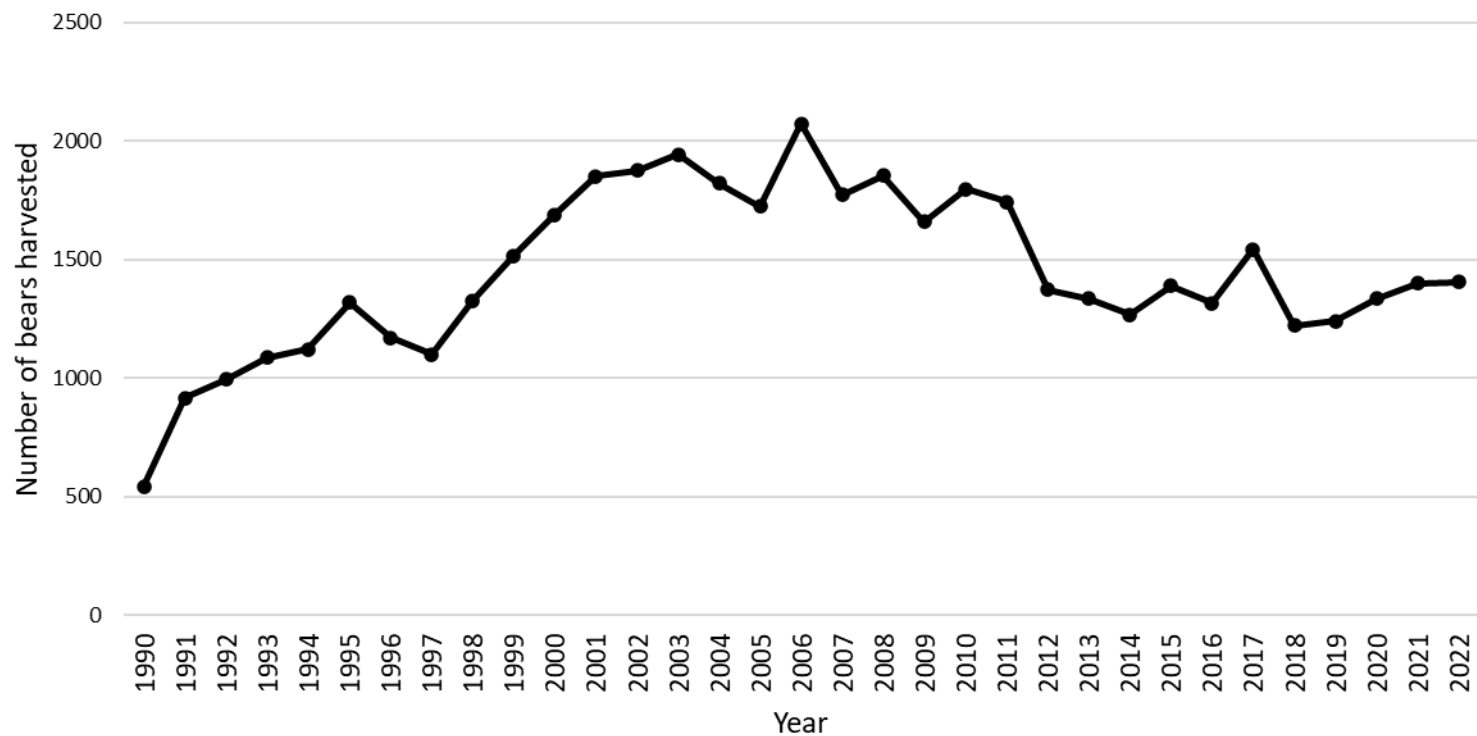
- Most hunters (87%) relied primarily on bait only
- About 18% relied primarily on dogs alone or a combination of baiting (strike) and dogs
- 81% of harvested bear were taken over bait
- Bait only hunters had a 34% success rate, dog hunters had a 59% success rate
- The success rate of hunters that used a guide was 48%
 - Approximately 693 hunters (13%) hired a guide
- 5,814 people bought a bear license, which is a decrease of 36% since 2011
 - 60,720 people applied for a bear license, which is an increase of 18% since 2011





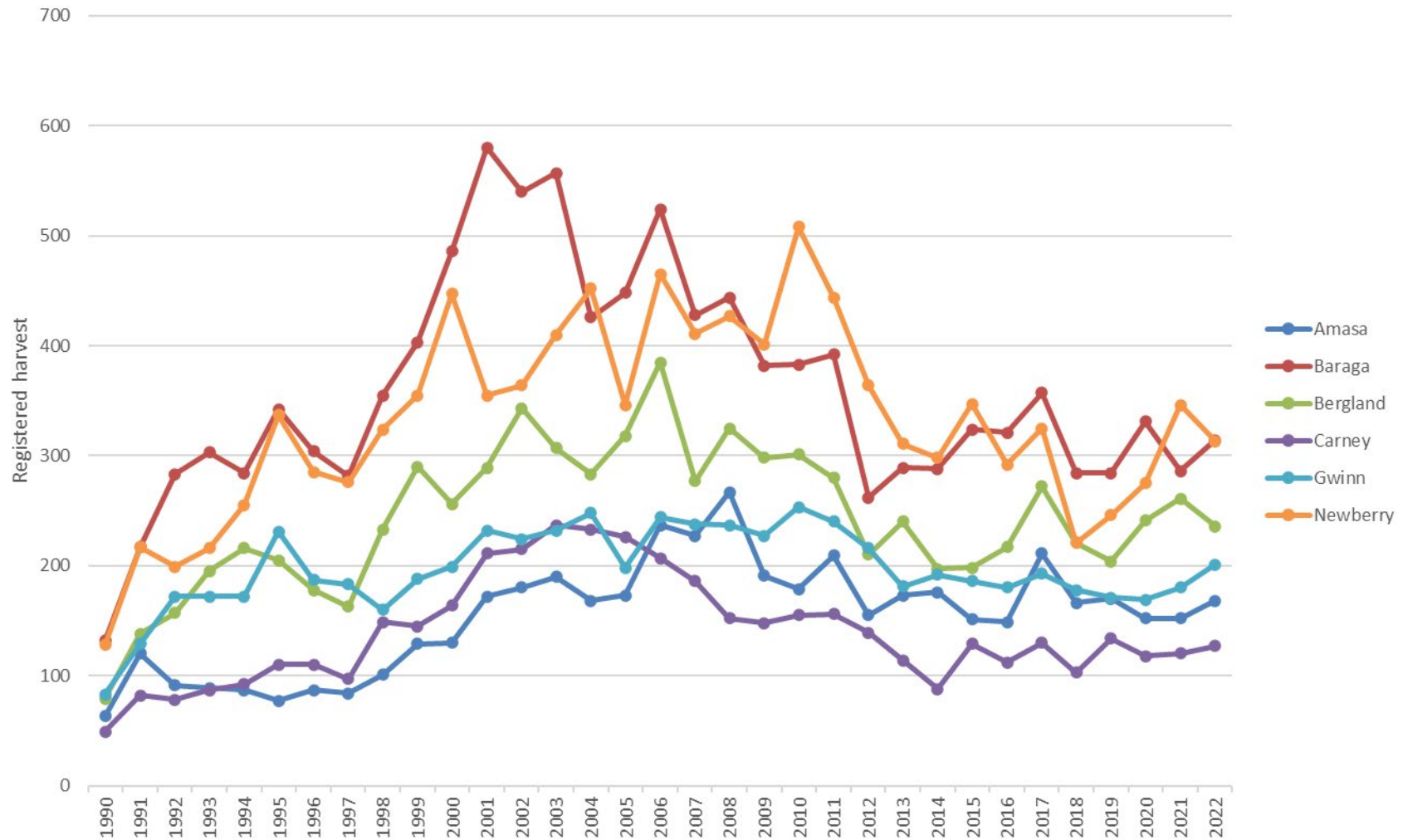
UP - State and Tribal Harvest

Long-term average: 1,447





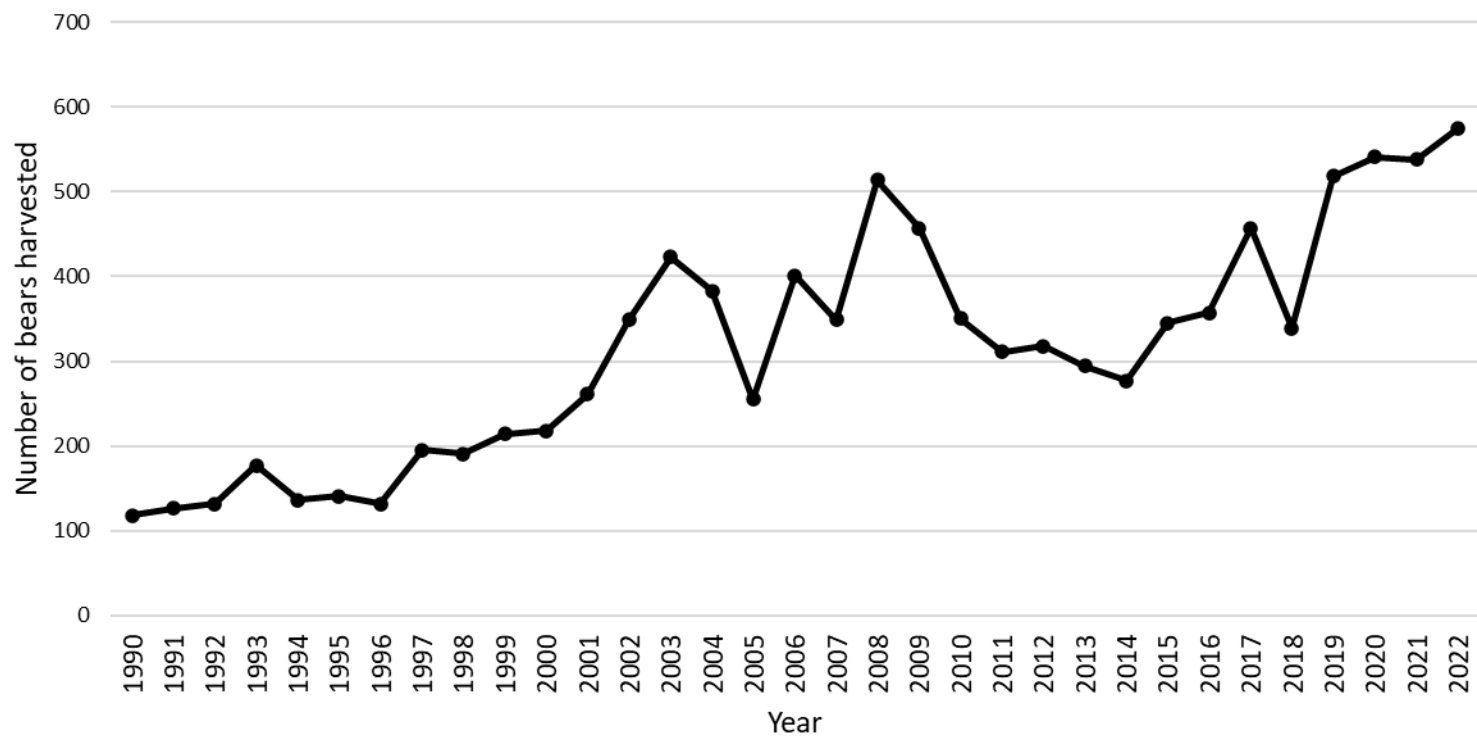
UP: Number of bears registered by BMU (State-licensed hunters)





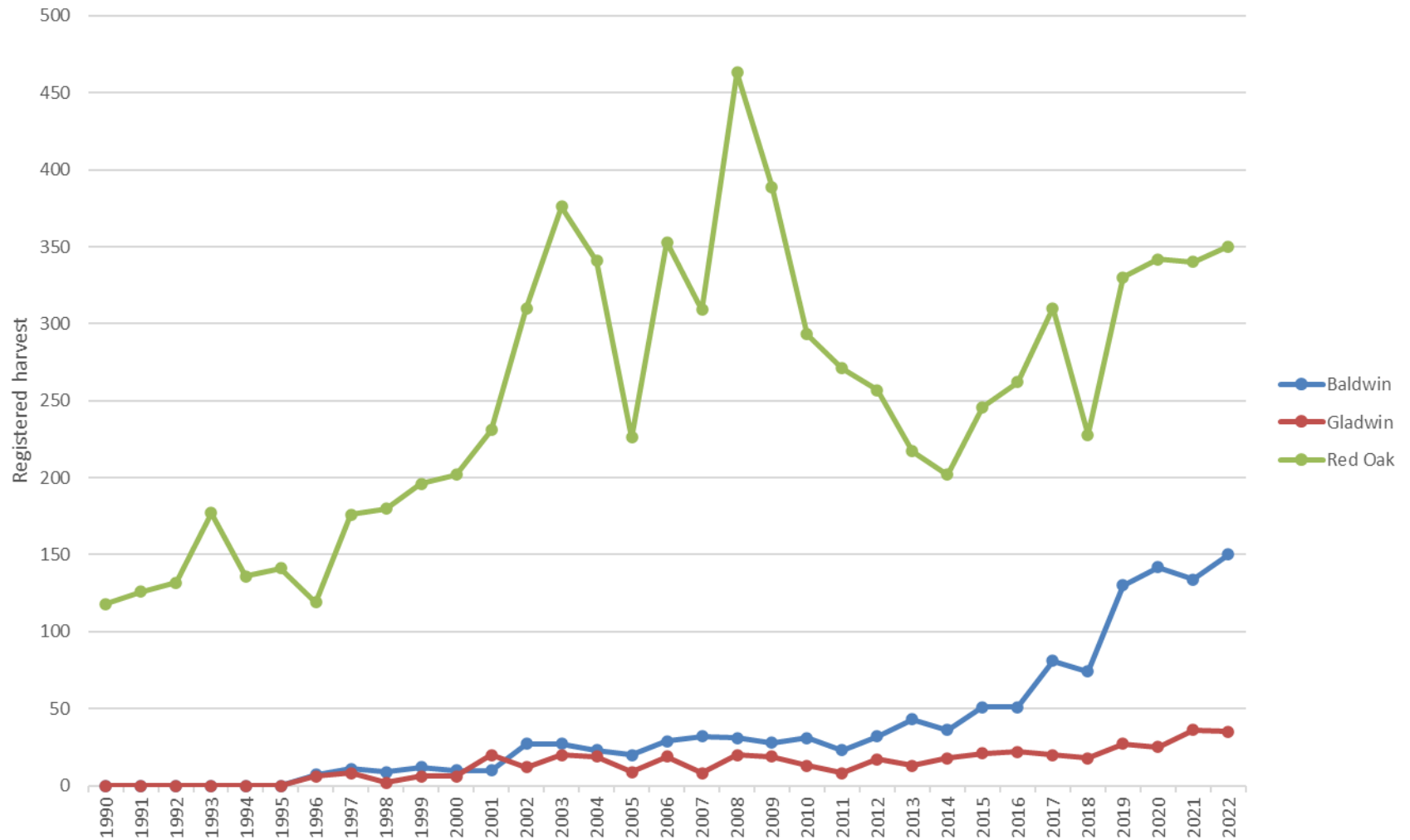
NLP - State and Tribal Harvest

Long-term average: 315



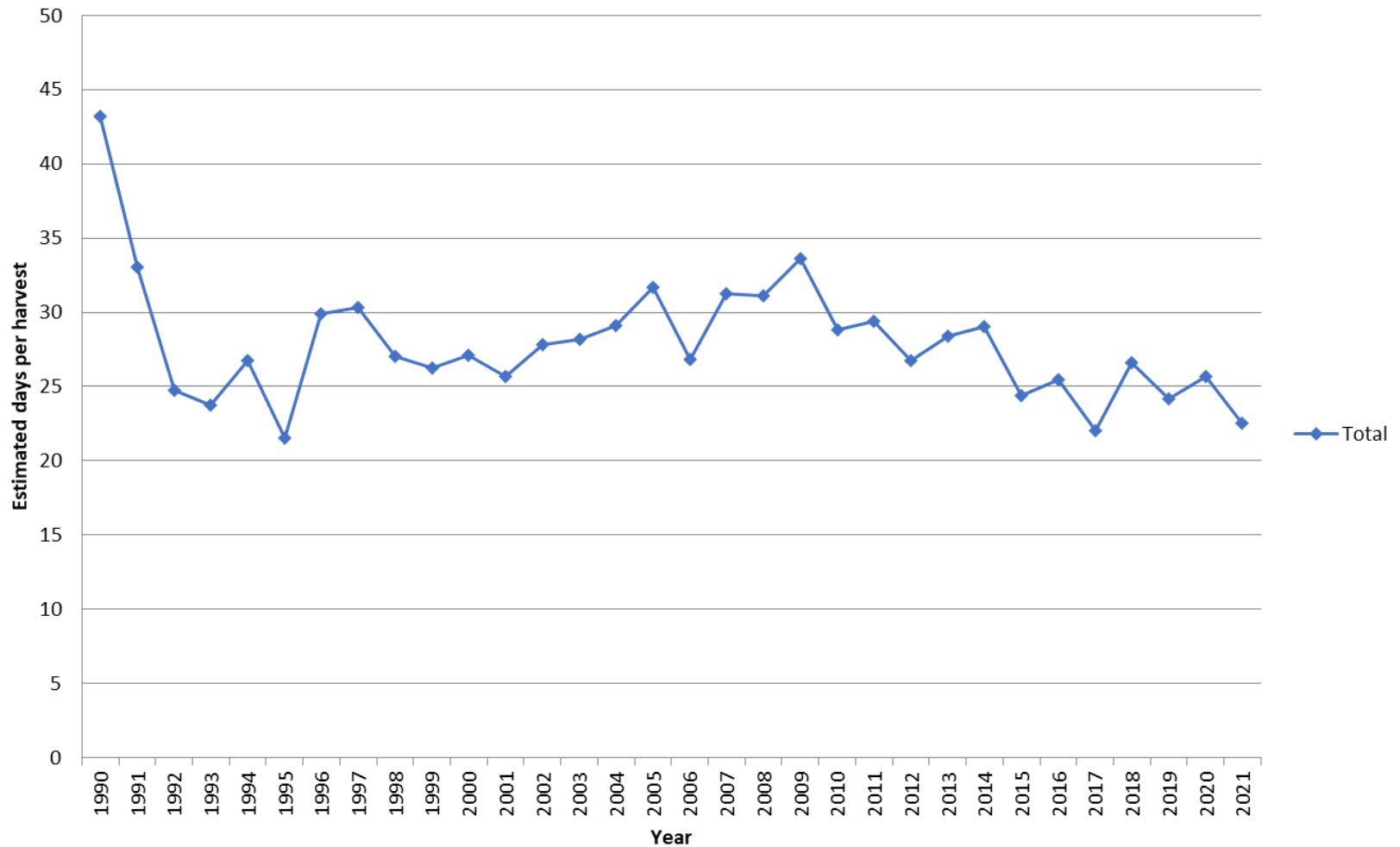


NLP: Number of bears registered by BMU
(State-licensed hunters)



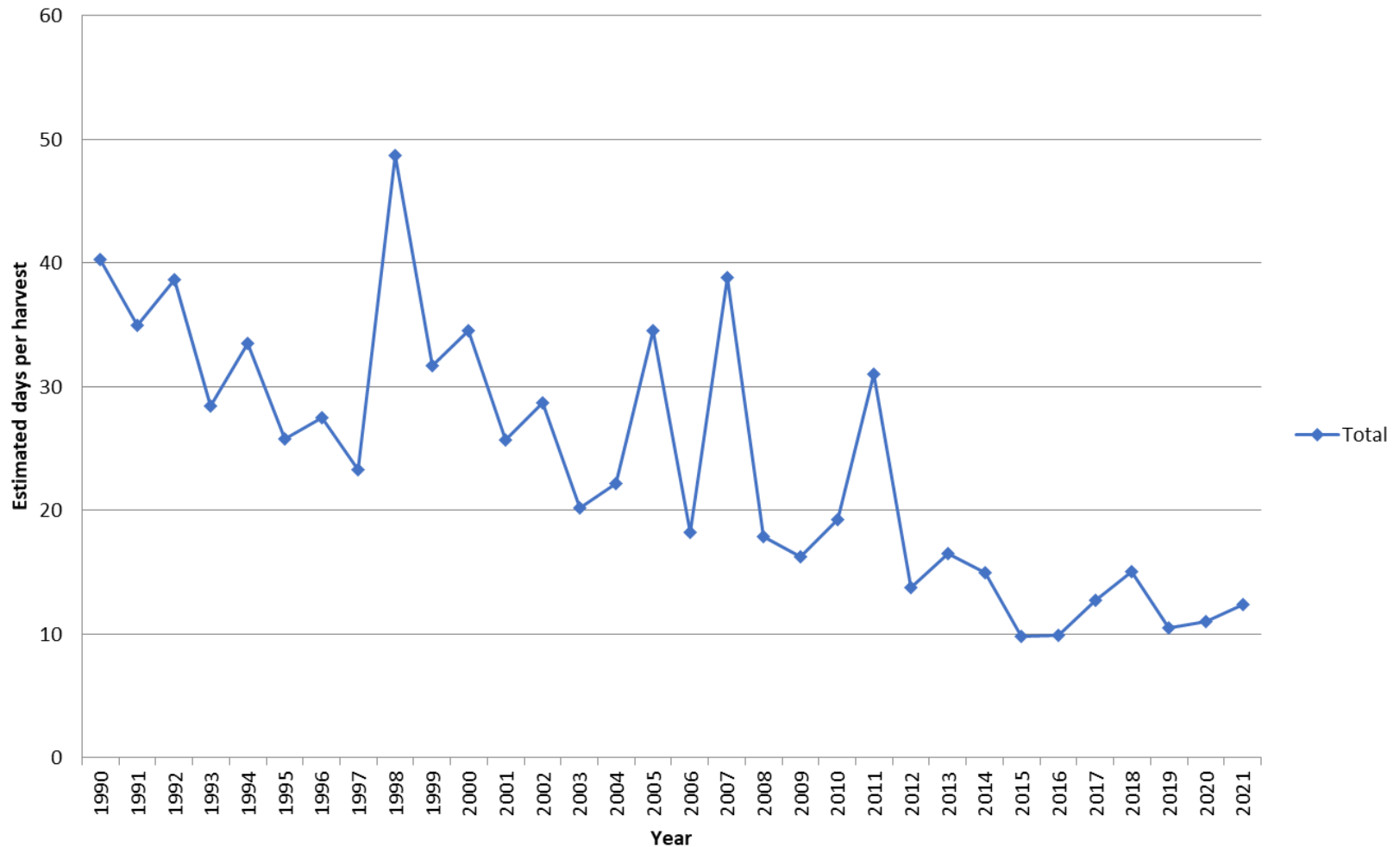
UP Region

Estimated effort per bear



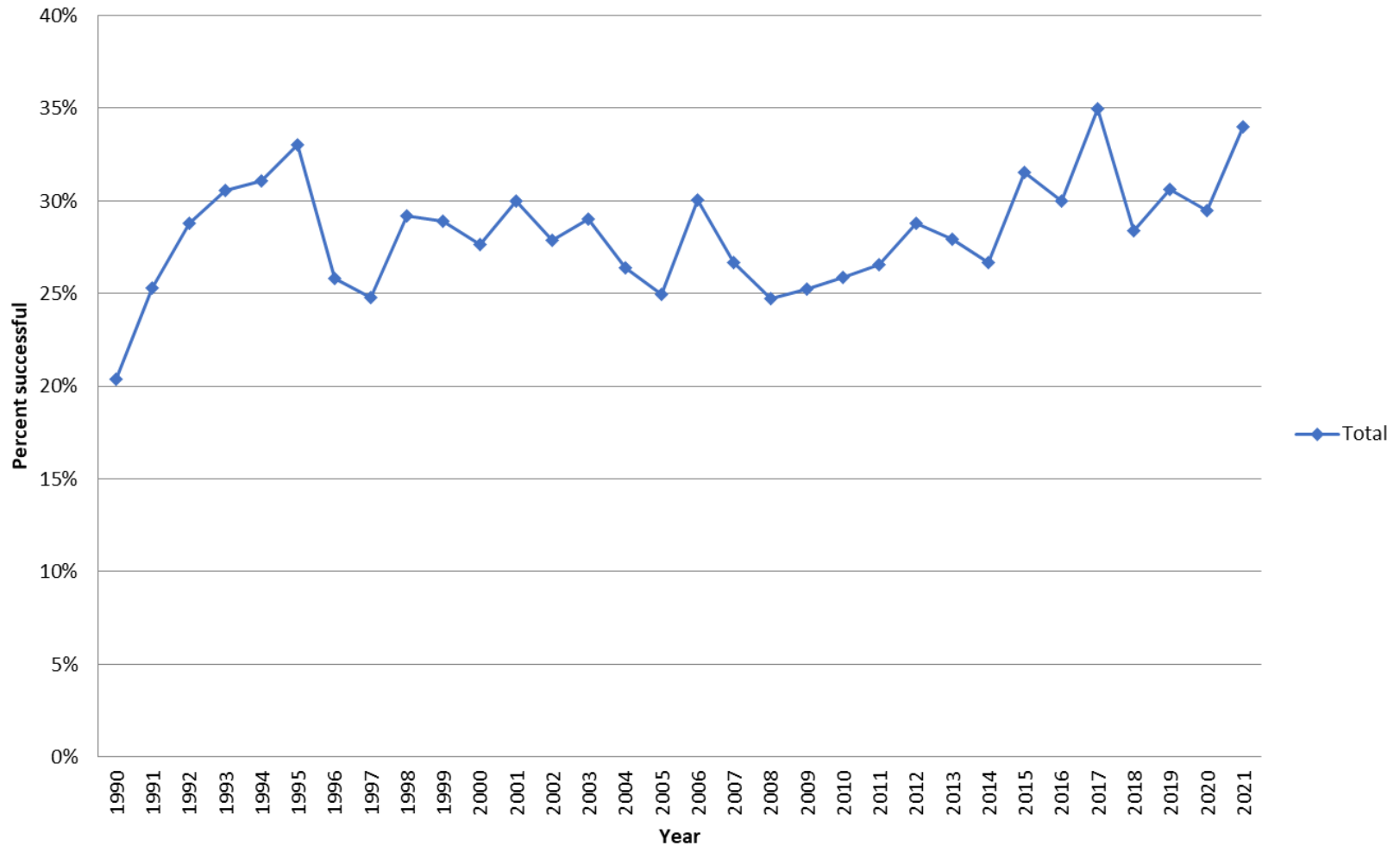
NLP Region

Estimated effort per bear



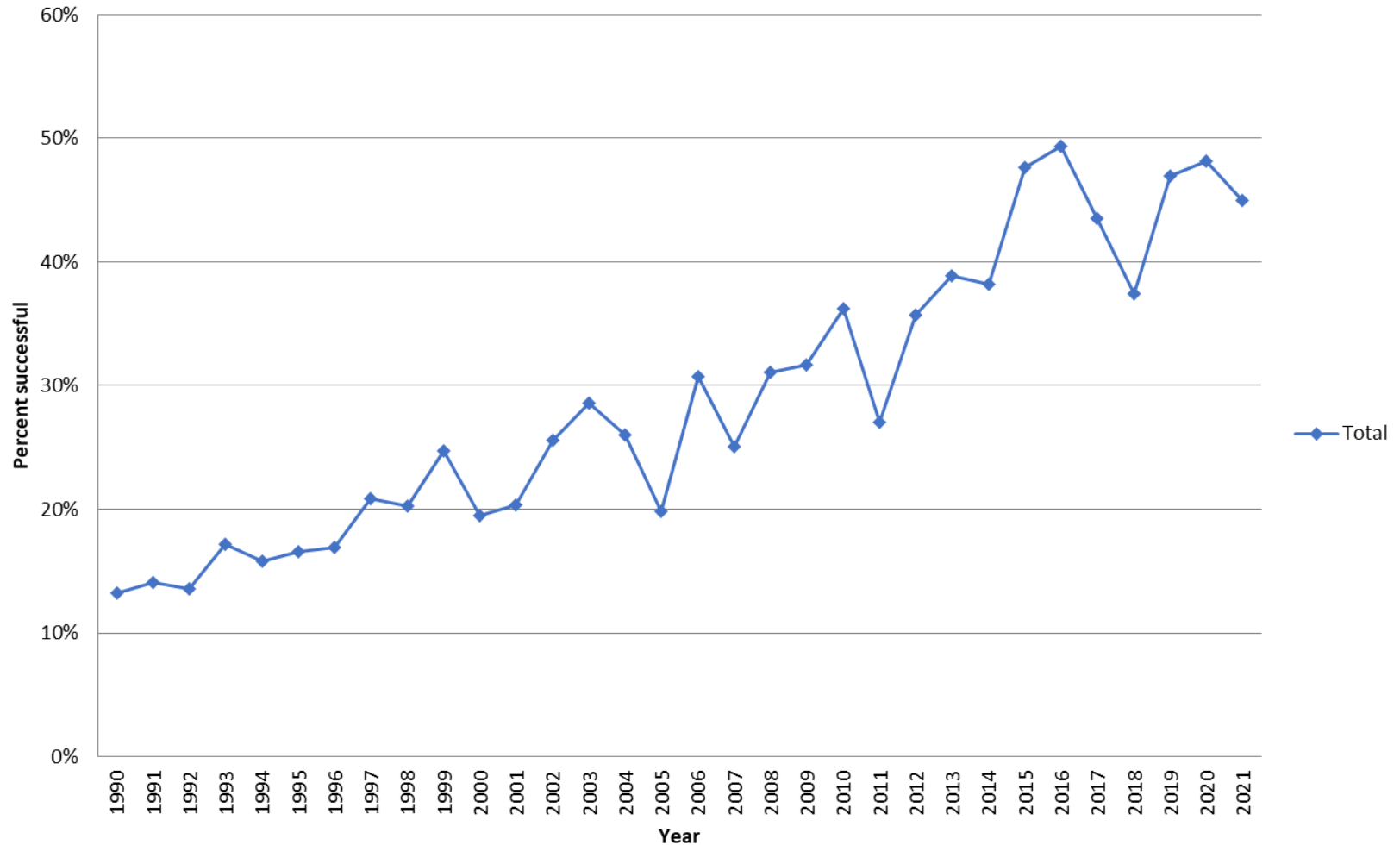
UP Region

Estimated percentage of successful hunters by year



NLP Region

Estimated percentage of successful hunters by year



2021 Bear Activity Reports

Note: 10 activity reports had missing or incomplete location information and are not mapped. Current as of 12/09/21.

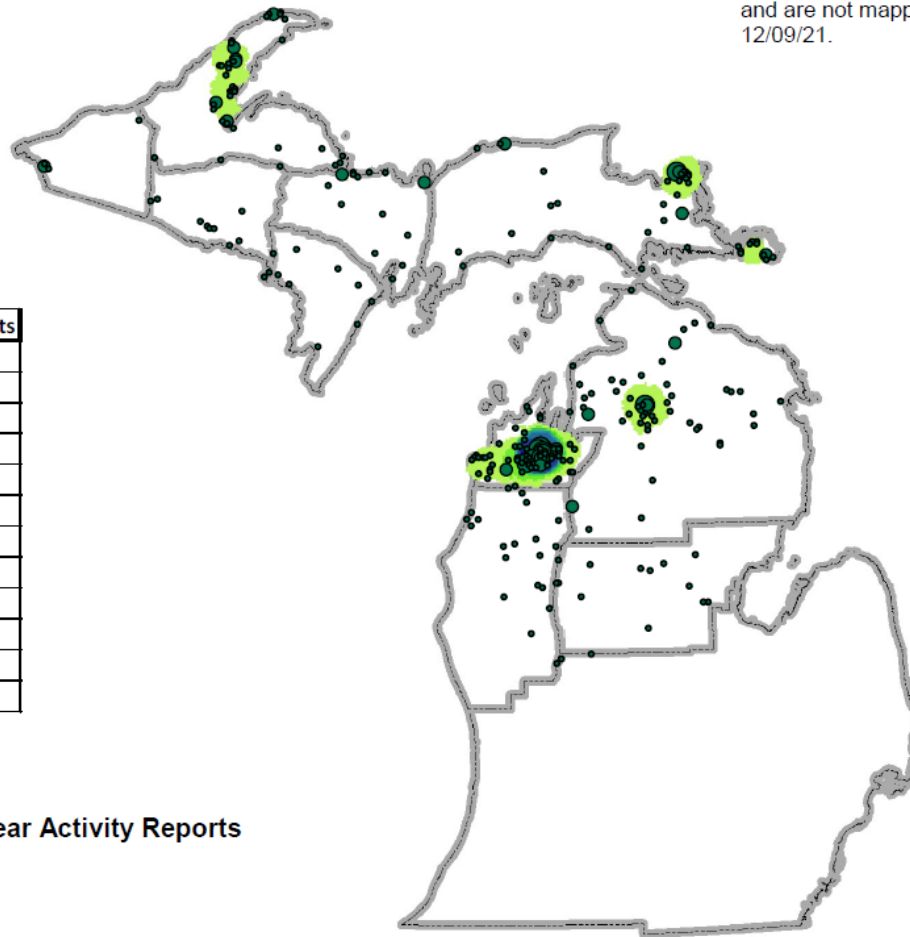
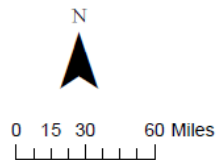
Month	# of Reports
January	0
February	0
March	10
April	39
May	70
June	77
July	51
August	45
September	48
October	15
November	2
December	1

2021 Bear Activity Reports

Reports

- 1
- 2
- 3+

— Bear Management Unit Boundaries

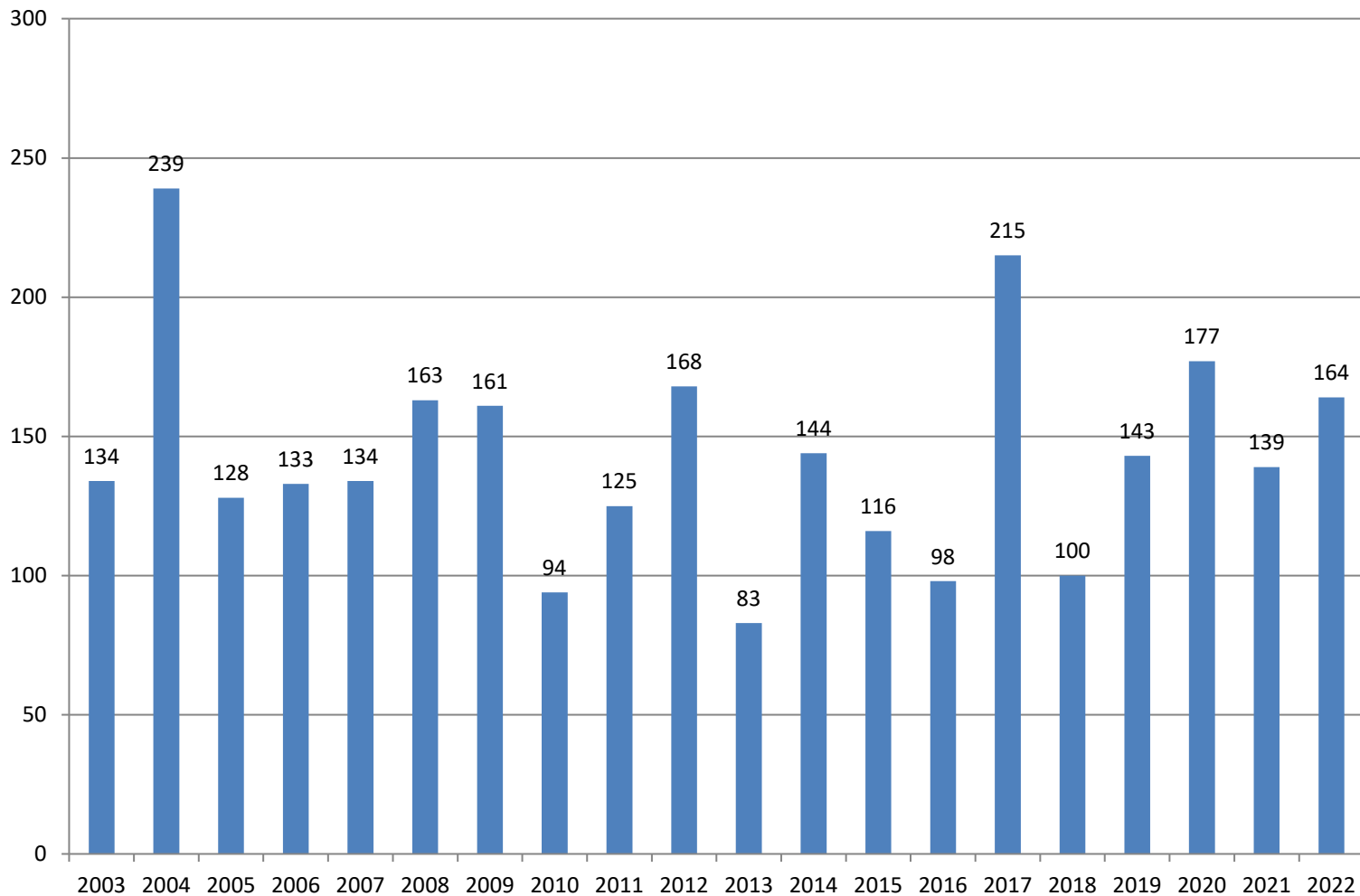


SLM 12/09/2021

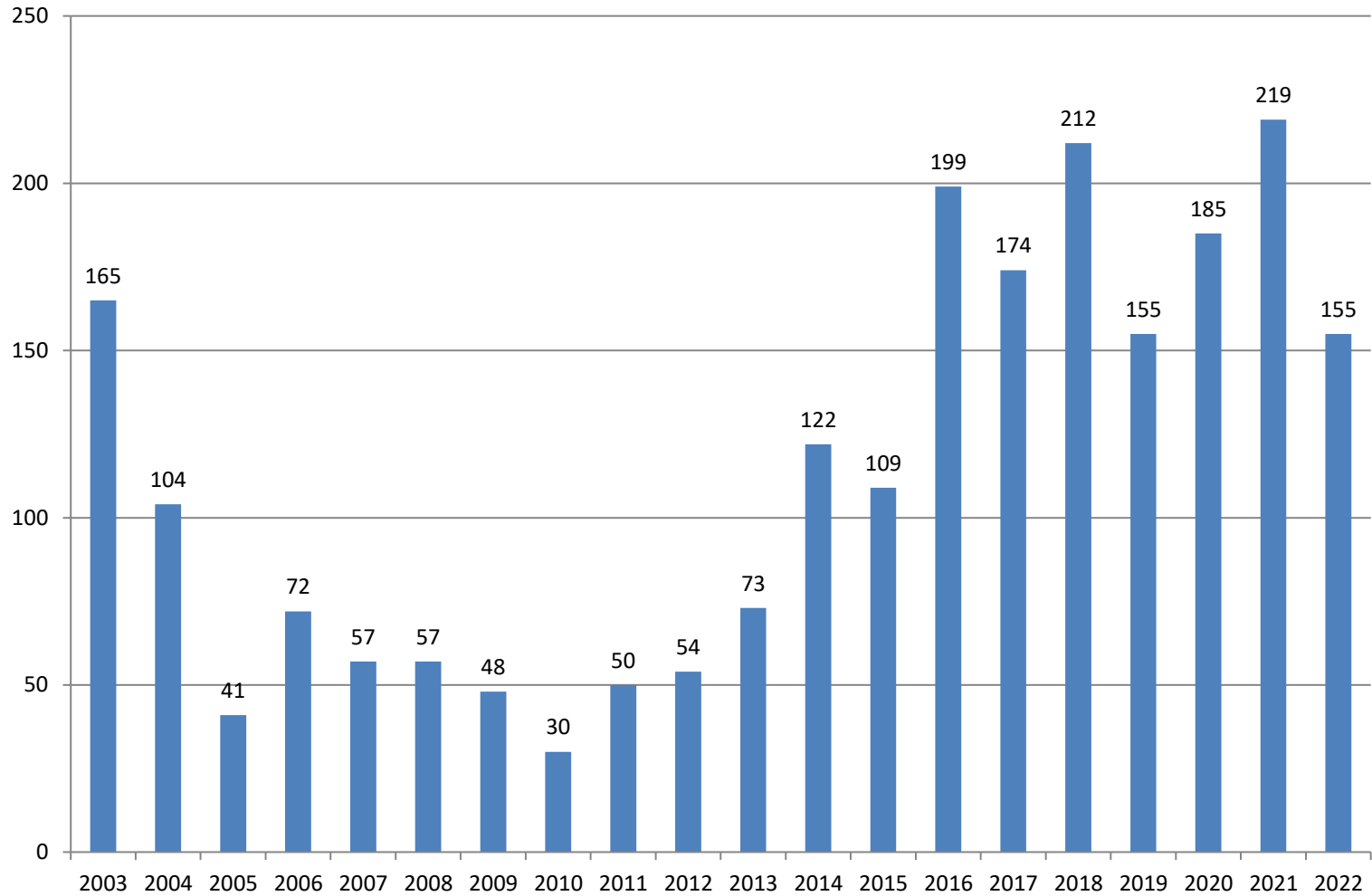




UP Region Nuisance Complaints



NLP Region Nuisance Complaints



Proposed License Quotas



2023-24 Proposed UP Desired Harvest and License Quota

- State allocation: 1,196 (+11 from 2021-22)
 - Tribal allocation: 55 (same as 2021-22)
- State license Quota: 5,406 (-365 from 2021-22)

Bear Management Unit	2023-24 License Quota	Change from 2021-22
Amasa	500	0%
Baraga	1540	-0.3%
Bergland	920	-12%
Carney	550	0%
Drummond	6	0%
Gwinn	885	-7%
Newberry	1005	-14%



2021-22 Proposed NLP Desired Harvest and License Quota

- State allocation: 528 (+19 from 2021-22)
 - Tribal allocation: 75 (+3 from 2021-22)
- State license quota: 1,180 (-50 from 2021-22)

Bear Management Unit	2021-22 License Quota	Change from 2021-22
Baldwin	395	+16%
Gladwin	100	-17%
Red Oak	685	-11%



Proposed Regulatory Changes

2022

MICHIGAN BLACK BEAR DIGEST



Reminders

- Season date changes for hunt periods 1 and 2.
- Bait barrels are not allowed on DNR-managed lands.
- Archery-only season added in Baldwin and Gladwin bear management units.

Drawing results online July 5.

Application Period: May 1 - June 1, 2022
RAP (Report All Poaching): Call or text 800-292-7800



Prohibit Field Points from Being used in a Bow and Arrow

- Currently restrictions for crossbow.
Proposal: bow and arrow must use broadhead at least 7/8 inch wide and arrows at least 14 inches in length.
 - Consistency across equipment
 - Reduce odds of wounding
 - Increase odds of recovery
- Department supports this proposal



Restricting Firearm Caliber Use

- Currently firearm restrictions for deer and elk, but not bear.
- Proposal: prohibit use of .22 caliber and smaller rimfires
 - Consistency across species
 - Reduce odds of wounding
 - Increase odds of recovery
- Department supports this proposal





Clarifying Wood Products at Bait Sites

- Currently wood products are prohibited on public land, but unclear.
- Proposal: prohibit manufactured wood products on public lands.
 - Ensure plywood, lumber, etc. prohibited
 - Ensure hollow stumps, cut logs, etc. allowed
- Department supports this proposal.



Prohibit the Use of Stupefying Substances

- Currently drugs, poisons, and anti-coagulants are prohibited.
- Proposal: prohibit use of stupefying substances.
 - Ensure no substances that make unable to think clearly, groggy, or insensible
 - Example: melatonin
- Department supports this proposal.



Implement a Wanton Waste Law

- Currently no requirement to use meat from harvested bear.
- Proposal: required to salvage edible meat, with exceptions.
 - Allow enforcement if hunter fails to salvage
 - Help ensure hunting remains tool in future
- Department supports this proposal.






















Changes to Season Structure to Address Conflict Between Hunters

- Currently in NLP, use of bait and dogs overlap 6 days, more interference.
- Proposal: shift bait hunting forward 1 day, add day for dogs-only.
 - 1 less day of overlap for bait and dogs
 - Full weekend opener for bait hunters
 - 4 days of dog-only hunting
- Department supports this proposal.



Example

2023 SEPTEMBER						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 
10 	11  	12  	13  	14  	15  	16  
17 	18 	19 	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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Changing the Definition of a Cub Bear

- Currently cub defined as a bear less than 1 year of age.
- Proposal: define cub as a bear less than 42 inches from tip of nose to base of tail.
 - Increase hunter ability to ensure compliance
 - Increase enforceability for law enforcement
- Department supports this proposal.



Allow the Use of Dogs under Bear Damage Shooting Permit

- Currently can't use dogs to kill bears under Bear Damage Shooting Permit.
- Proposal: allow dogs on a case-by-case basis for Bear Damage Shooting Permits.
 - Increase effectiveness of permits
 - Reduce bear-related issues
 - Target individual bears that cause damage
- Department supports this proposal.



Allow Nighttime Shooting under a Bear Damage Shooting Permit

- Currently legal hunting hours apply to Bear Damage Shooting Permits.
- Proposal: allow nighttime shooting on a case-by-case basis for Bear Damage Shooting Permits.
 - Increase effectiveness of permits
 - Reduce bear-related issues
- Department supports this proposal.





Manufactured Openings in Private Land Bear Bait Containers

- Currently holes 1 inch or less are allowed in bait containers.
- Proposal: prohibit holes greater than 1 inch and less than 22 inches.
 - Use of small baits in 1 inch or less holes.
 - Use of large baits in 22 inch or greater holes.
 - Holes too small or large to catch wildlife.
- Department supports this proposal.



Bear Baiting in Areas with Deer Baiting Bans

- Currently if deer baiting prohibited, no deer attractants allowed. If deer baiting allowed, 2 gallons of deer attractants allowed, but only inaccessible grains prior to Sept 15.
- Proposal: allow 2 gallons of any deer attractants statewide, during entire bear baiting period, if inaccessible to deer.
 - Simplify regulations.
 - More options for hunters.
 - No expected biological impact on deer or elk.
- Department supports this proposal.



Thank You

