

# 2021-2022 Bear Regulations Cycle



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Wildlife Division  
March 11, 2021

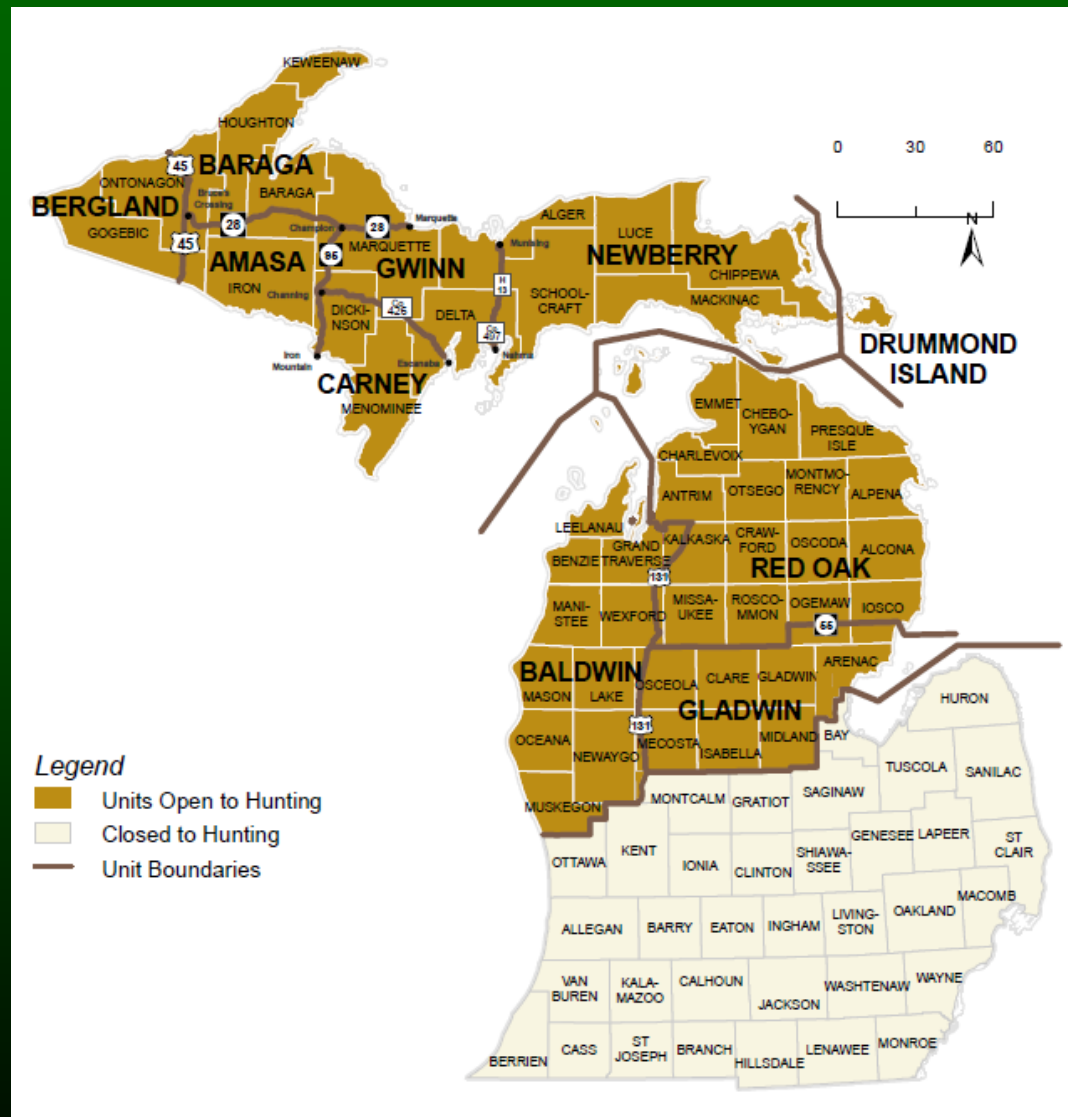


# Bear Management Goals

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



# Desired Harvest & Bear License Quotas (2021-22)

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

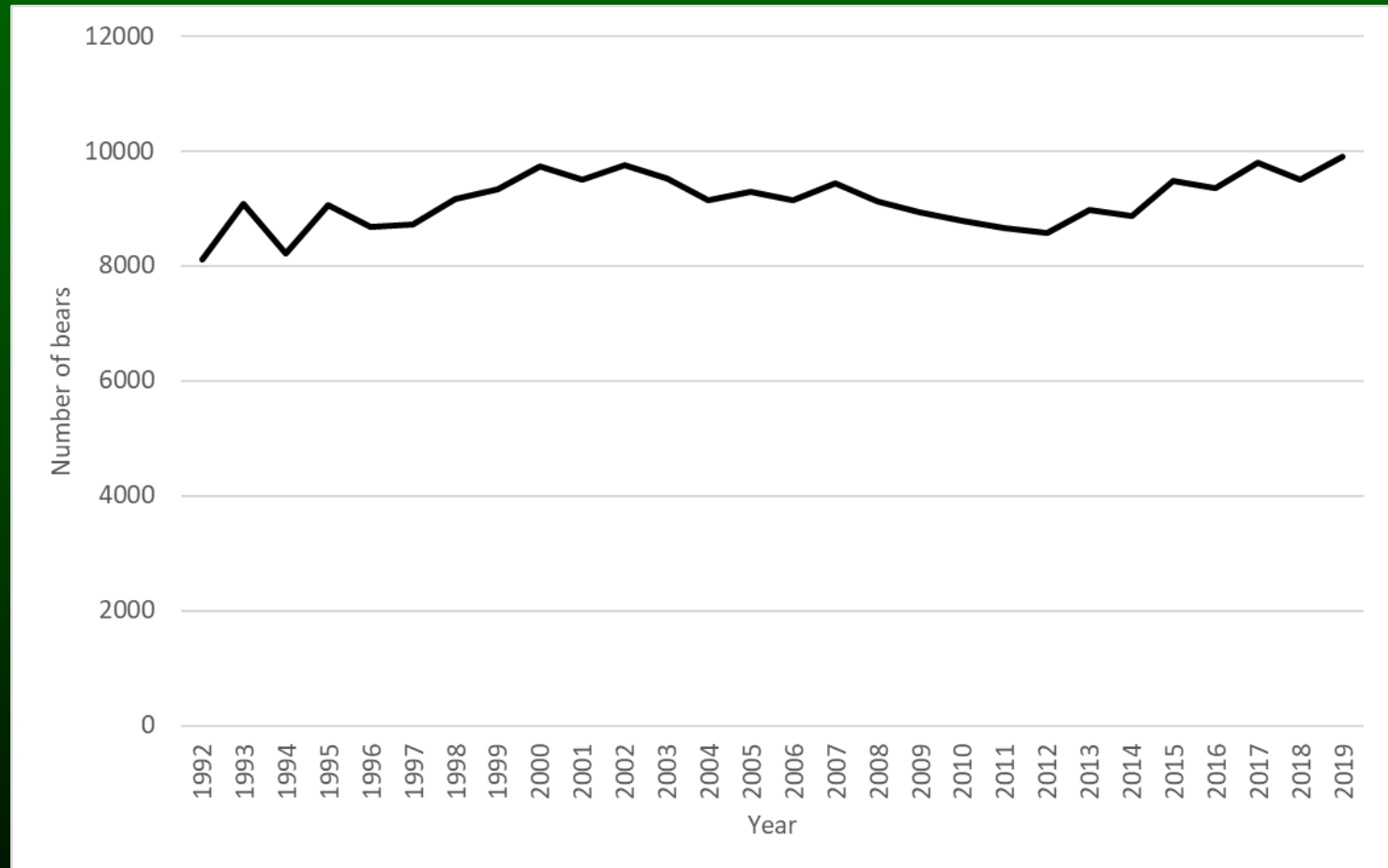


# Upper Peninsula Population Trajectory Goal

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



# 2019 estimated pre-harvest abundance of bears 1 year old and older in the UP Region. SCAA analysis.



9,902 bear in 2019. Up 16% since 2012

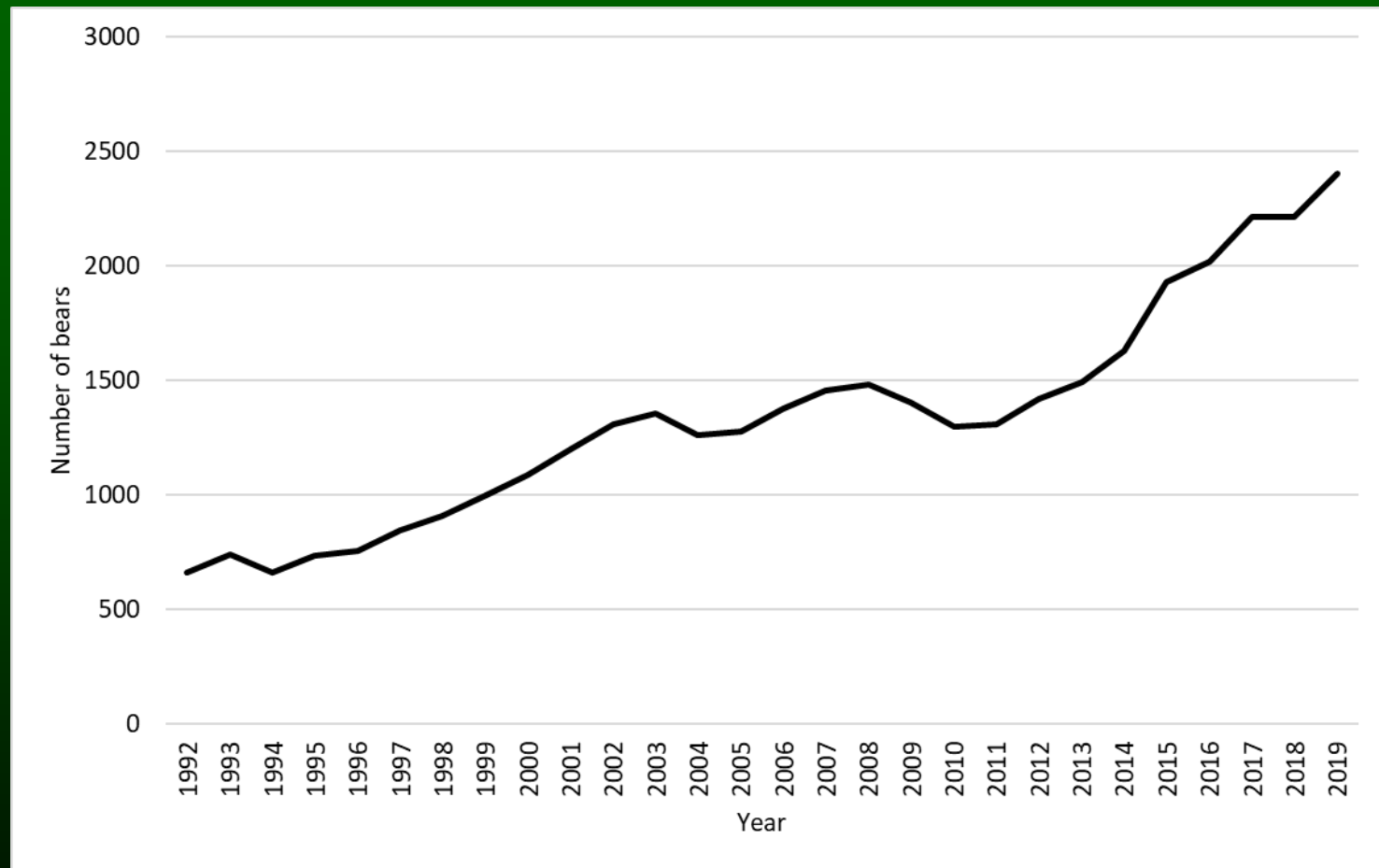


# Northern Lower Peninsula Population Trajectory Goal

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



# 2019 estimated pre-harvest abundance of bears 1 year old and older in the NLP Region. SCAA analysis.



2,402 bears in 2019. Up 69% since 2012





# Other Indices Used

- Hunter opinion
- Hunter effort
- Hunter success rates
- Square miles/bear harvested
- Nuisance bear complaints
- Habitat and mast



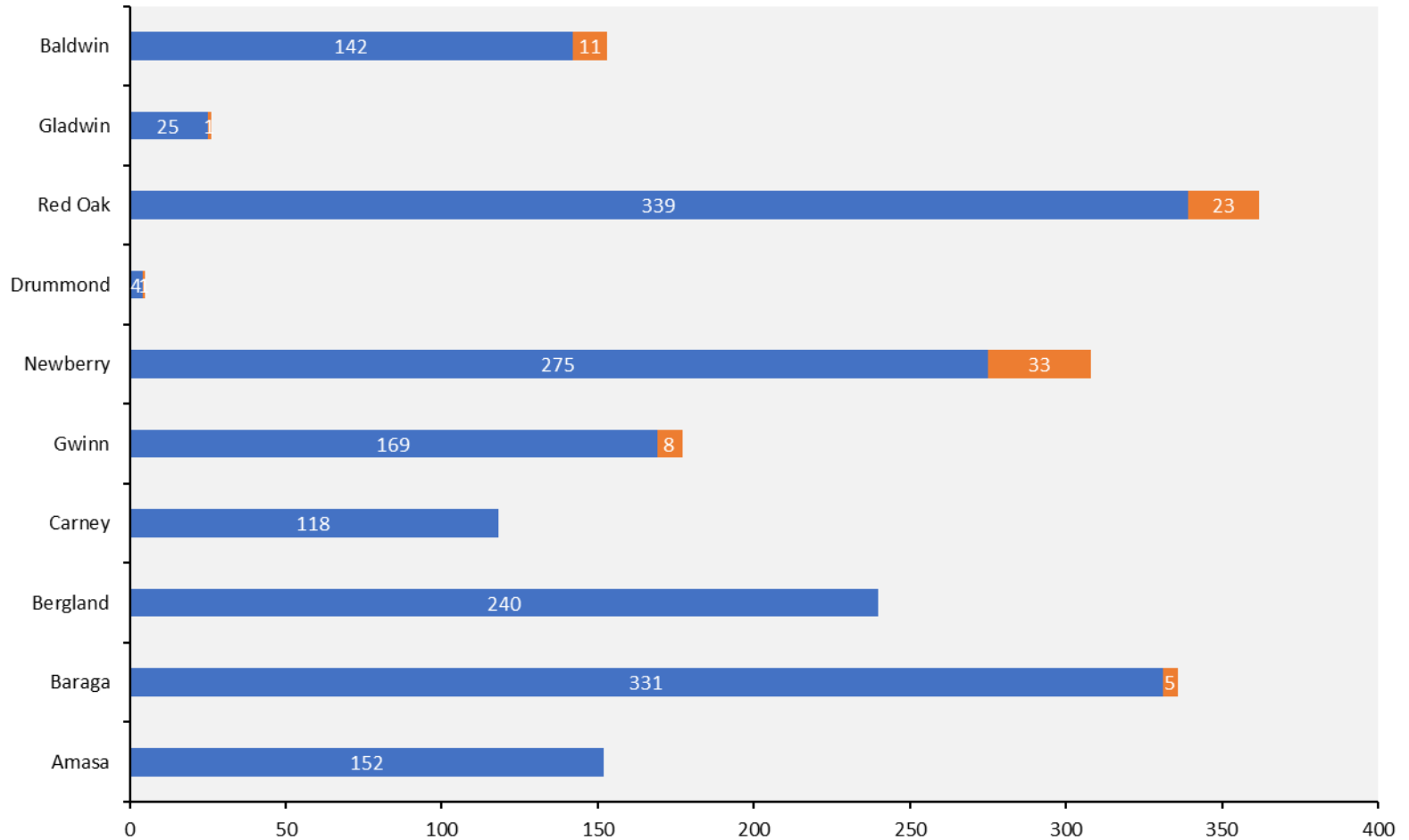
## 2020 Statewide Harvest (State Licensed Hunters)

- 1,797 bears harvested statewide
- Up 6% from 2019 (1,700)
- Approximately 6% above the 10-year average
- Very good success rates in many BMU's

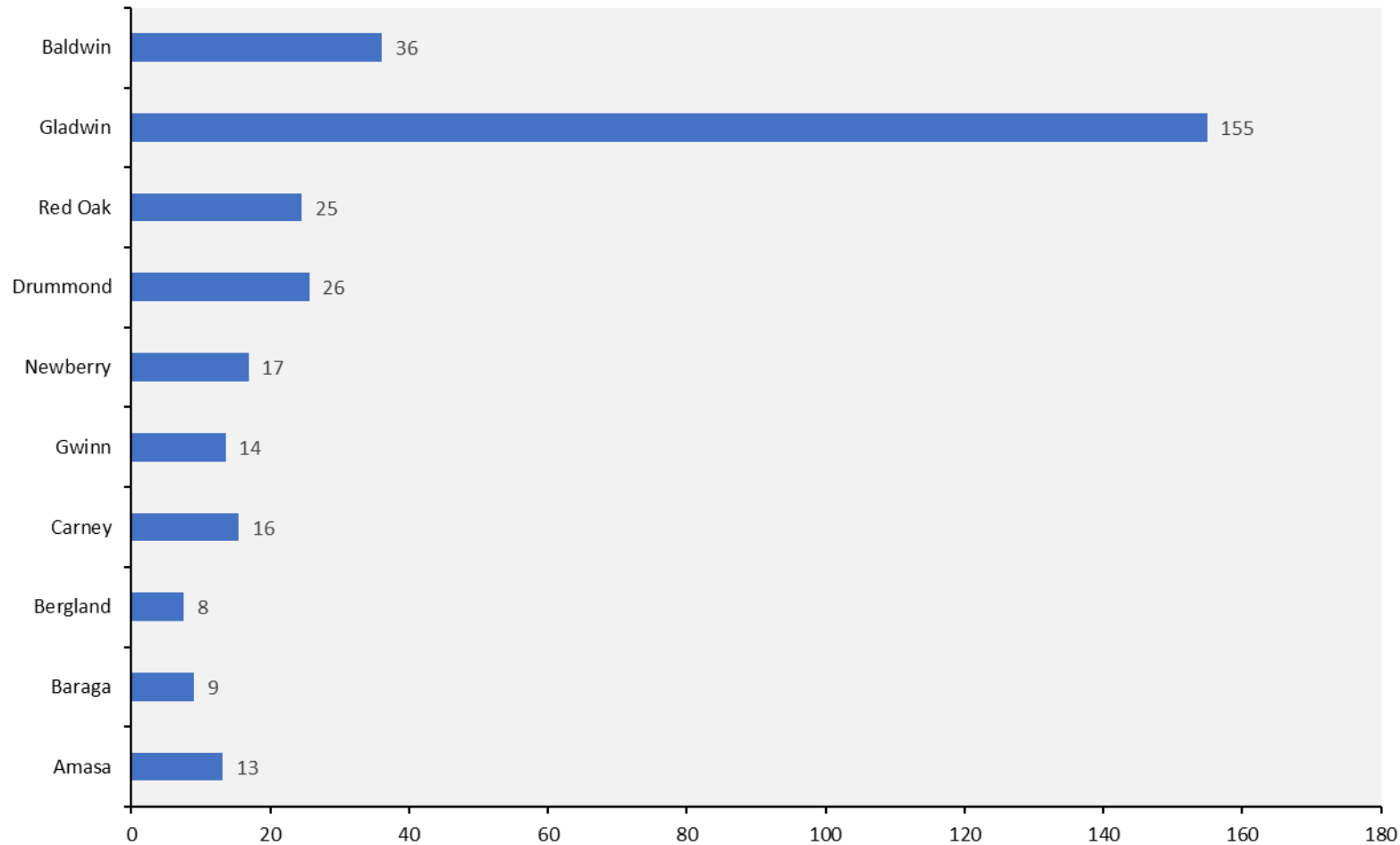


## 2020 Registered Harvest

■ State ■ Tribal



## 2020 Square miles / harvested bear State and Tribal



# Statistics from 2019 Bear Hunter Survey (Frawley)

- Most hunters (85%) relied primarily on bait only
- 12% relied primarily on dogs alone or a combination of baiting (strike) and dogs
- 80% of harvested bear were taken over bait
- Bait-only hunters had a 33% success rate, dog hunters had a 55% success rate



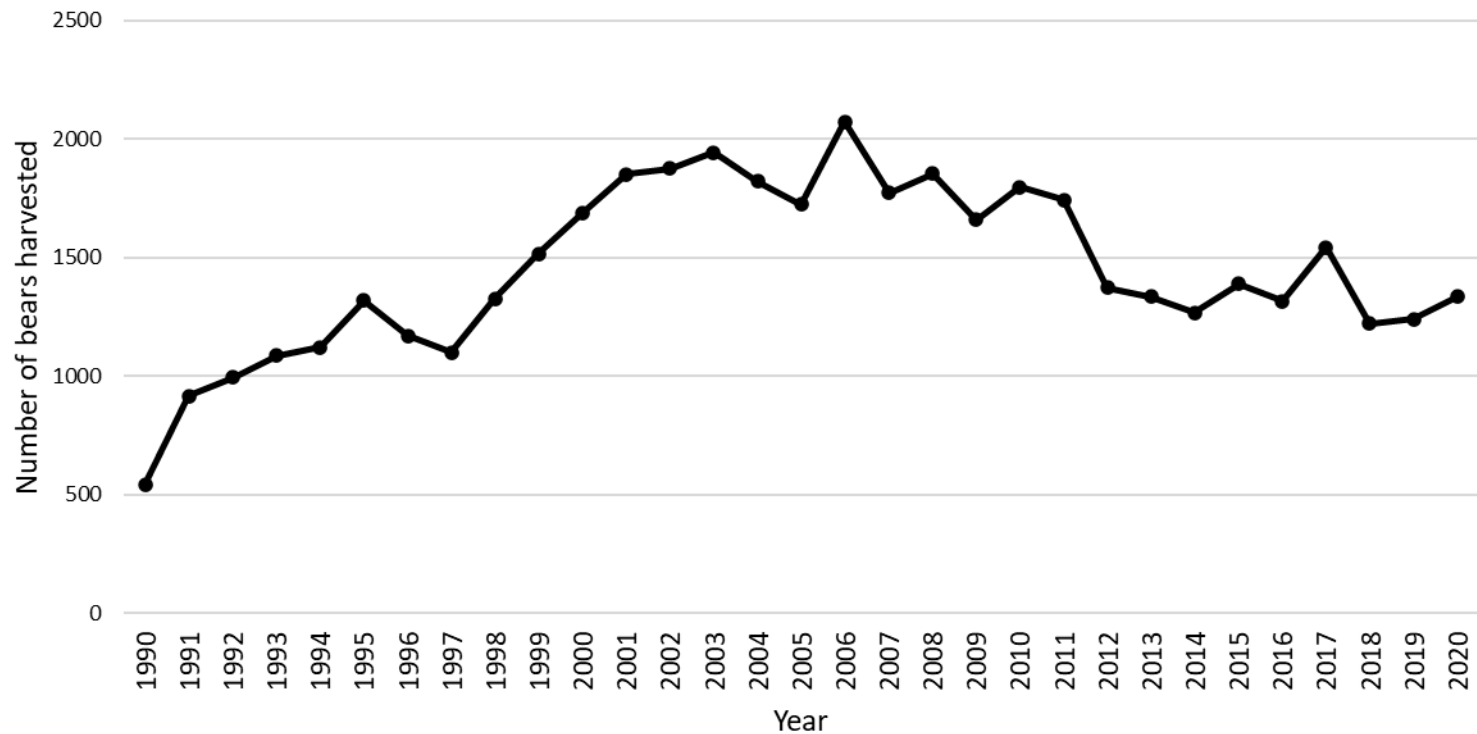
# Statistics from 2019 Bear Hunter Survey (Frawley)

- The success rate of hunters that used a guide was 47%
- Approximately 711 hunters (14%) hired a guide
- 5,365 people bought a bear license, which is a decrease of 26% since 2011 (8,401)

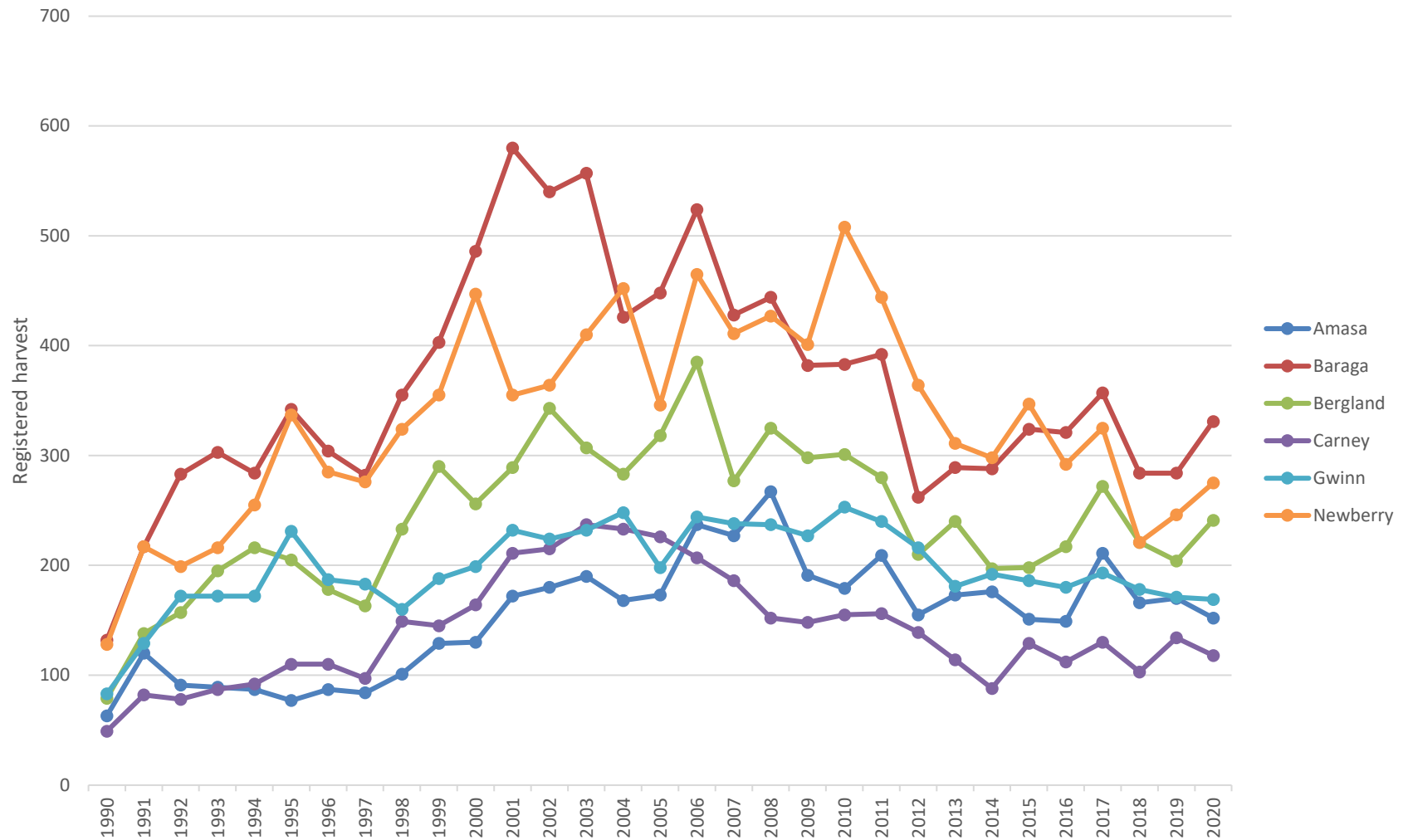


## UP - State and Tribal Harvest

Long-term average: 1,450



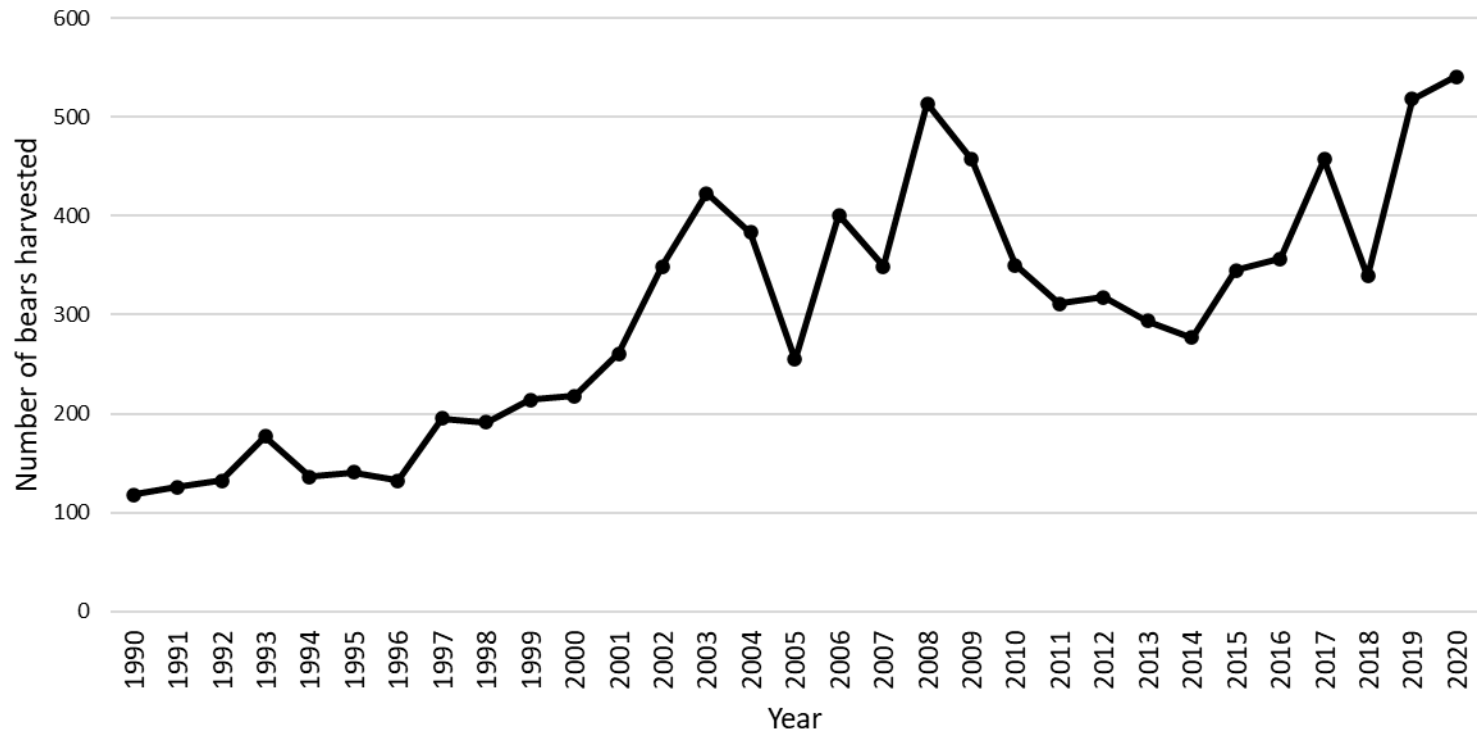
UP: number of bears registered by BMU  
(State-licensed hunters)



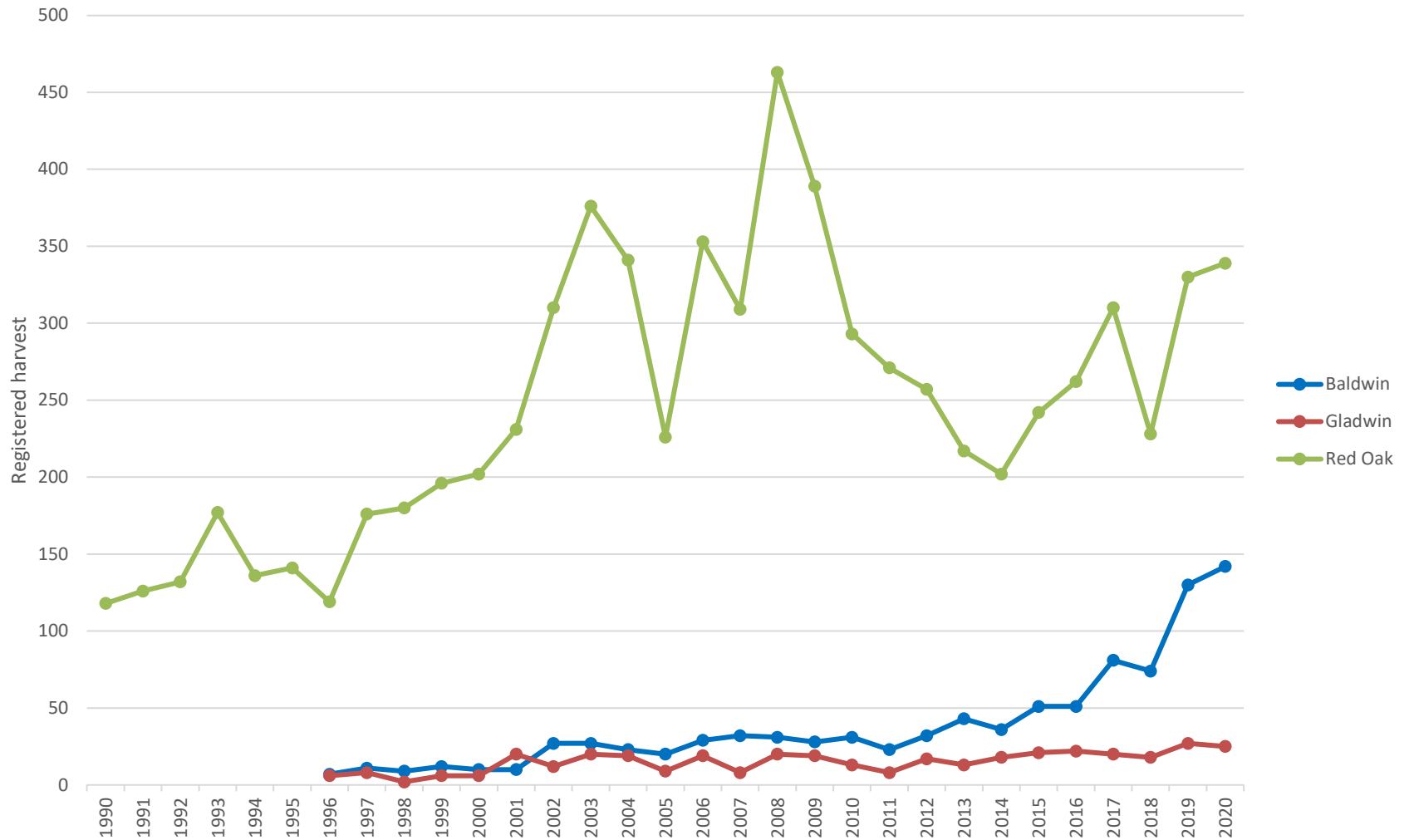


## NLP - State and Tribal Harvest

Long-term average: 299

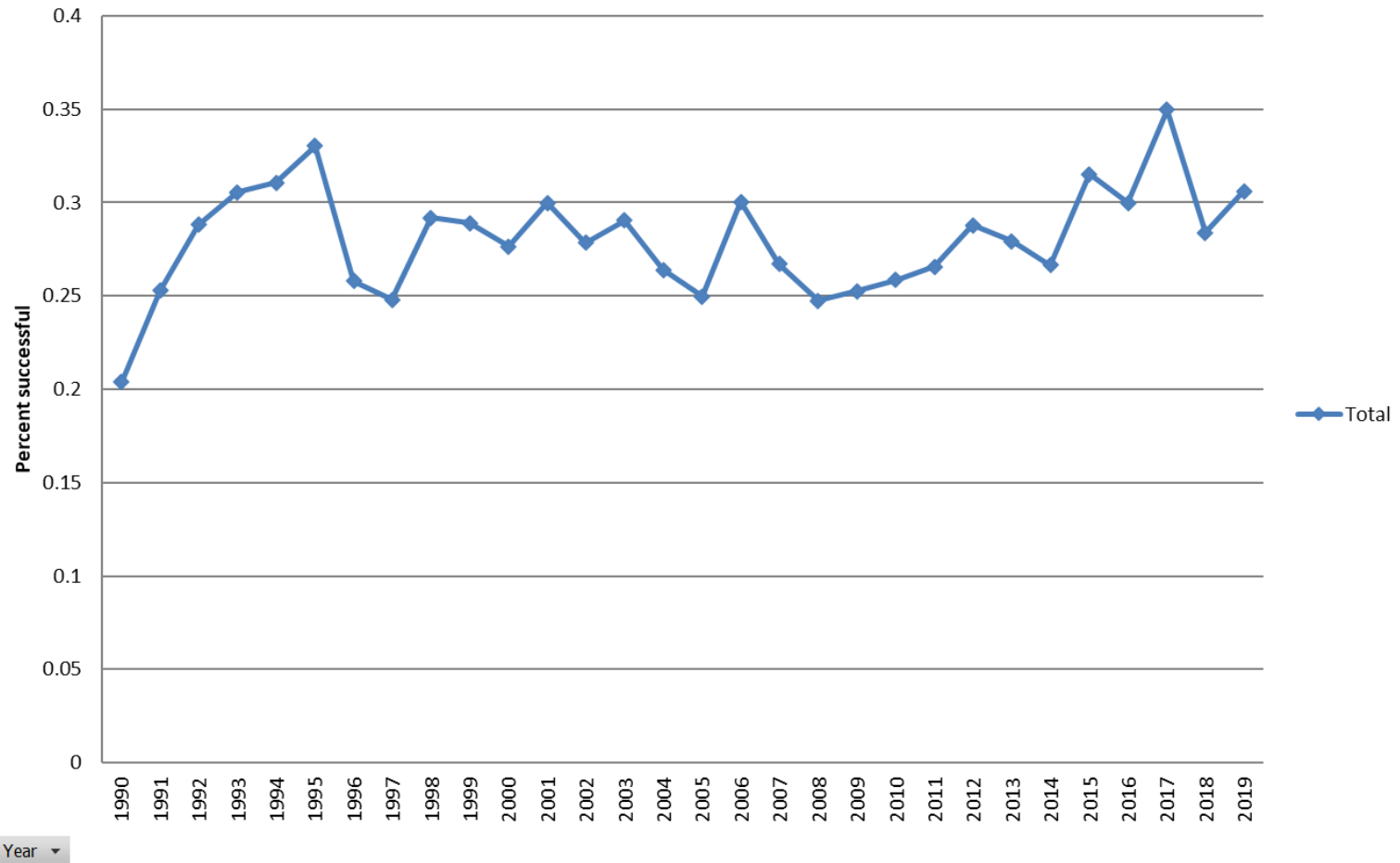


# NLP: number of bears registered by BMU (State-licensed hunters)



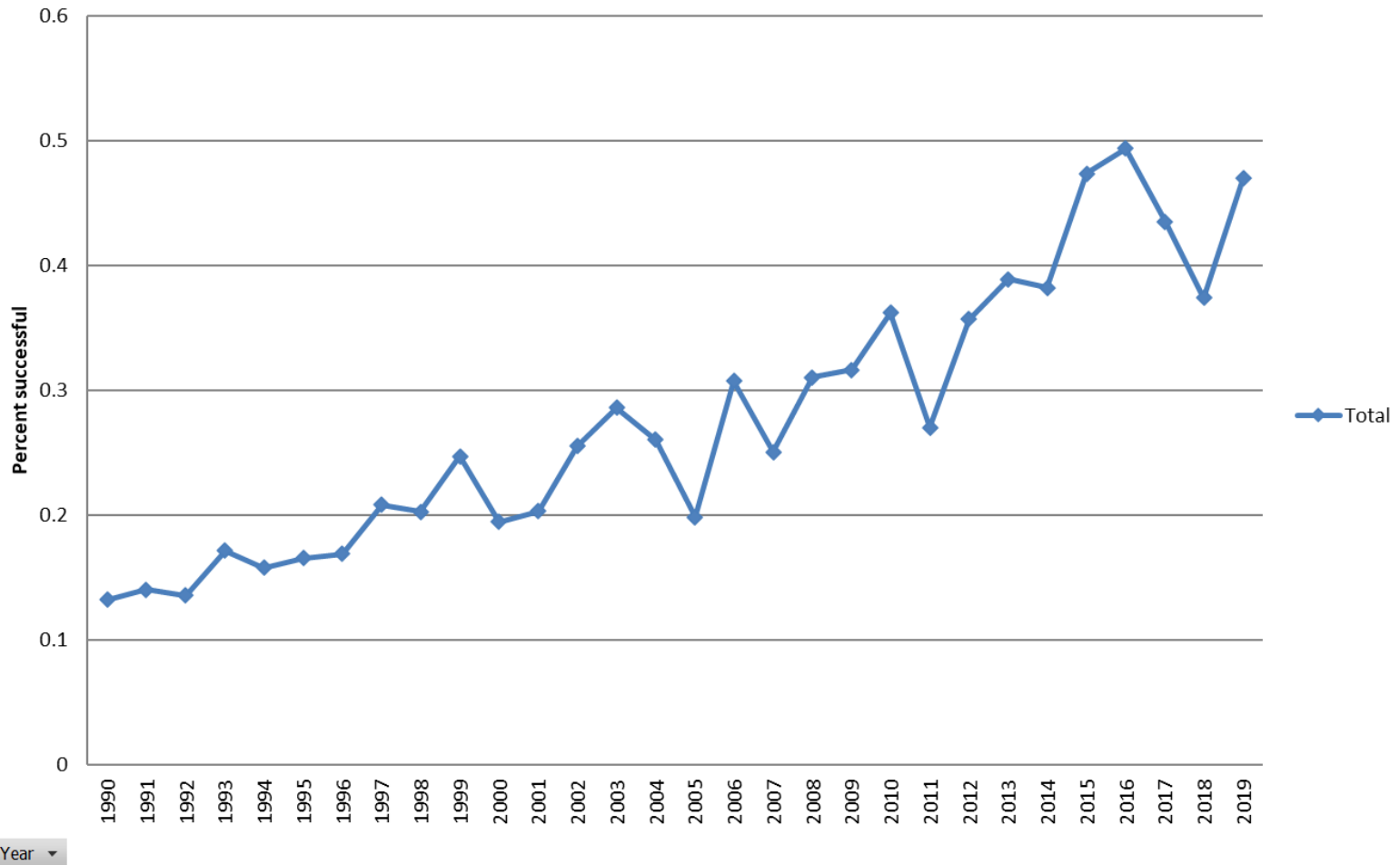
# UP Region

Estimated percentage of successful hunters by year



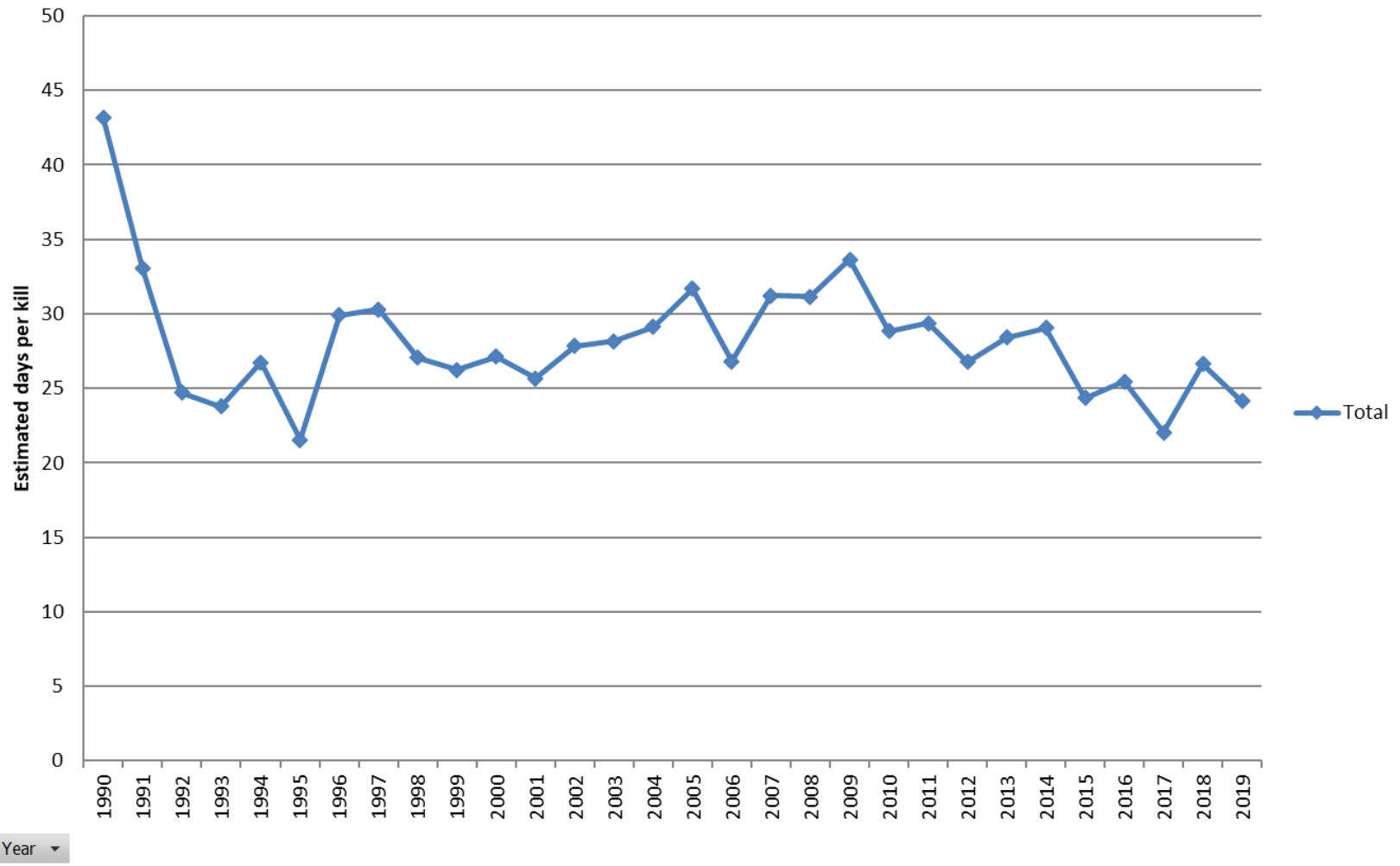
# NLP Region

Estimated percentage of successful hunters by year



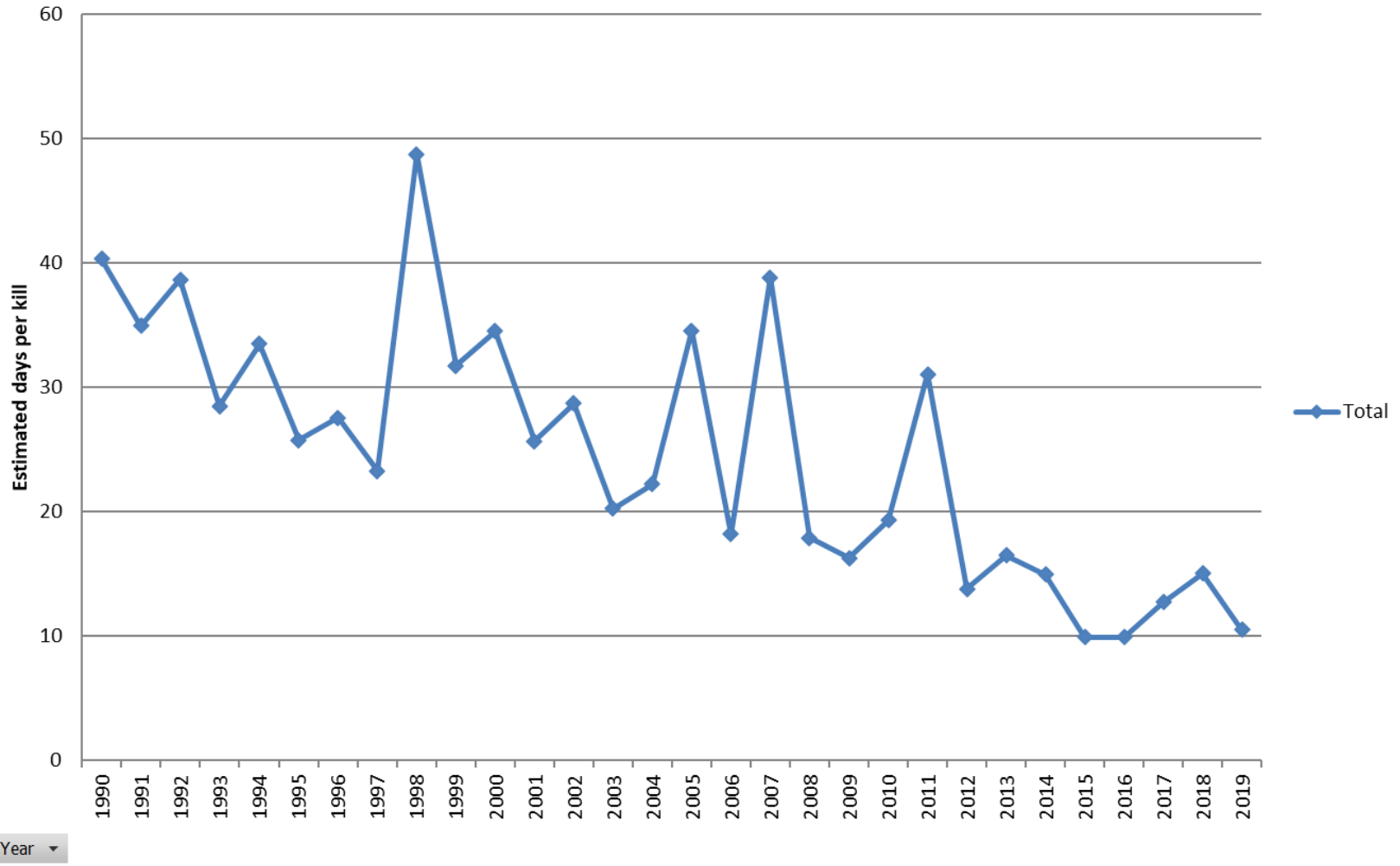
# UP Region

Estimated effort per bear

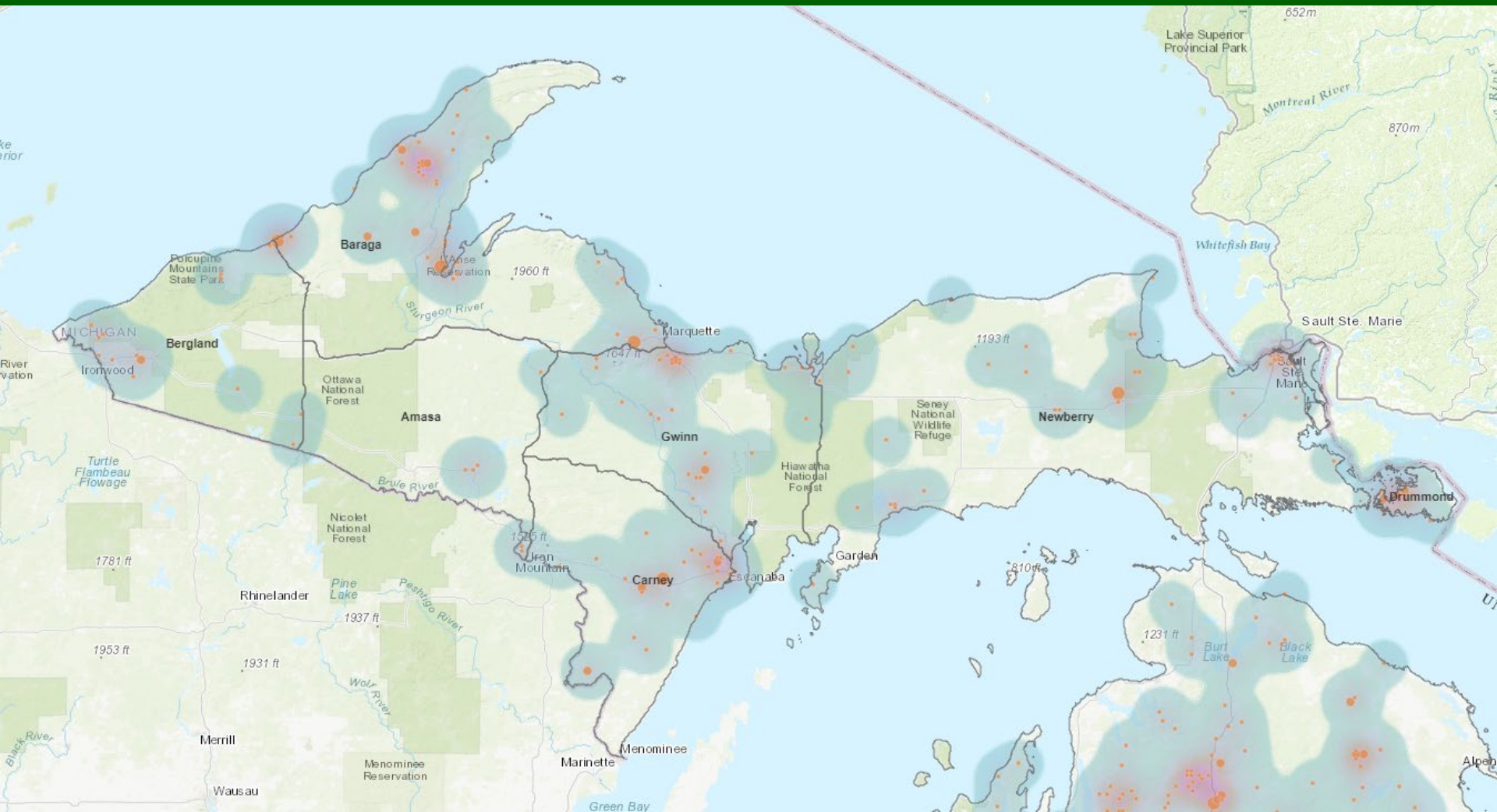


# NLP Region

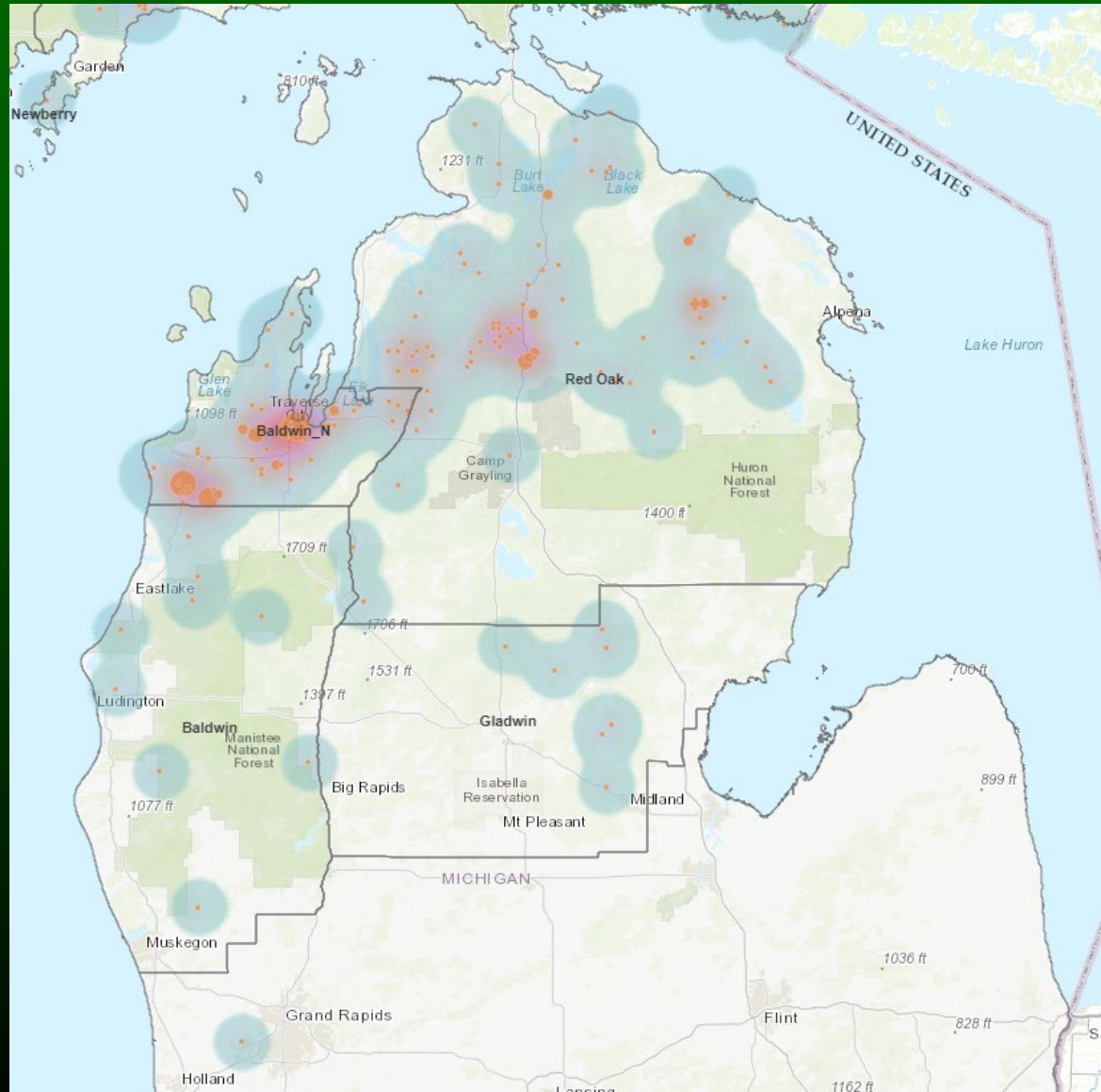
Estimated effort per bear



# UP Nuisance Complaints

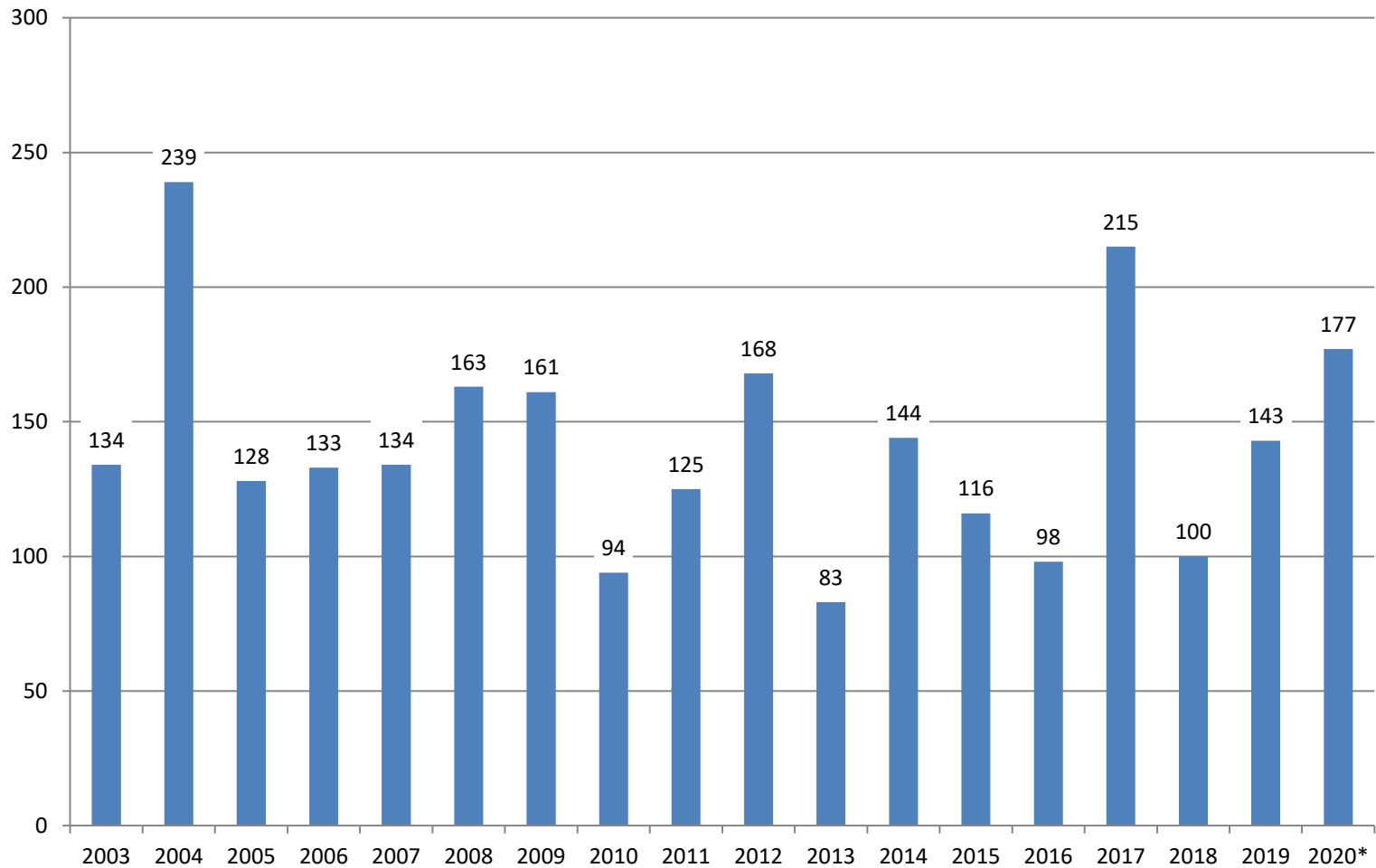


# LP Nuisance Complaints

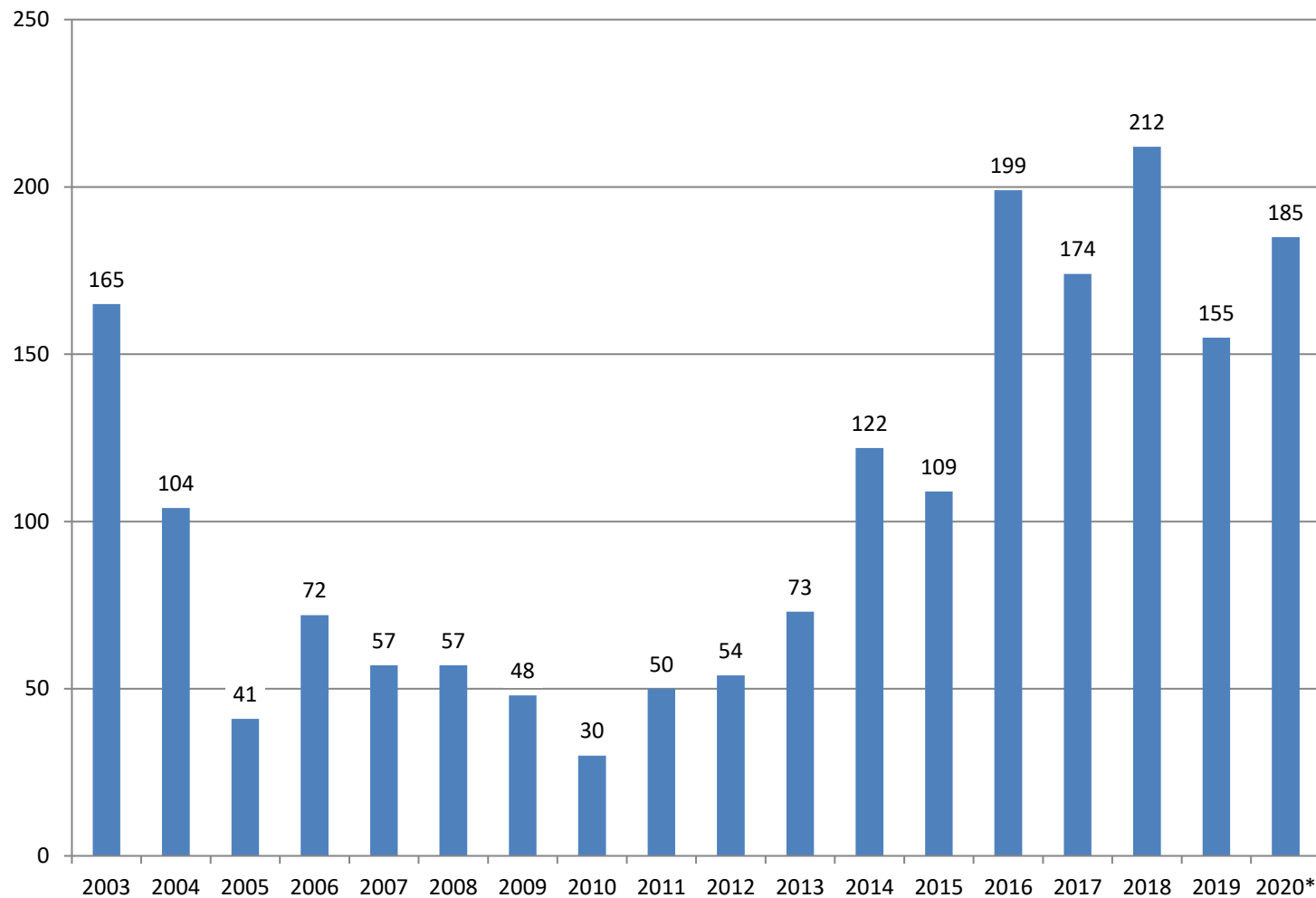




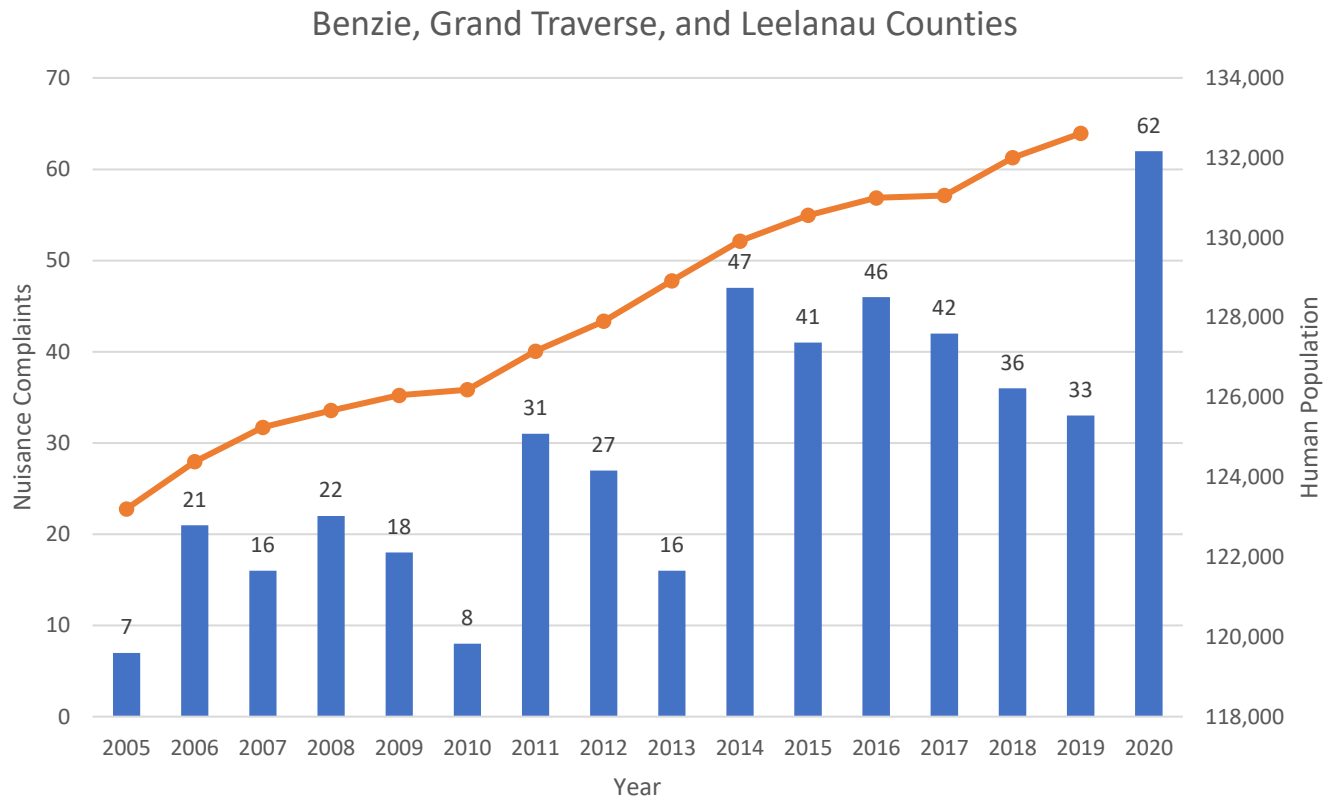
## UP Region Nuisance Complaints



## NLP Region Nuisance Complaints



# Human Population



# 2021-22 Proposed UP Desired Harvest and License Quota

- State allocation: 1,185 (+5 from 2019-20)
  - Tribal allocation: 55 (same as 2019-20)
- State license Quota: 5,986 (-24 from 2019-20)

Bear Management Unit	2021-22 License Quota	Change from 2019-20
Amasa	505	+4%
Baraga	1595	+1%
Bergland	1070	-11%
Carney	575	-4%
Drummond	6	+20%
Gwinn	990	+7%
Newberry	1245	+12%



# 2021-22 Proposed NLP Desired Harvest and License Quota

- State allocation: 480 (+80 from 2019-20)
  - Tribal allocation: 68 (+12 from 2019-20)
- State license quota: 1,230 (+160 from 2019-20)

Bear Management Unit	2021-22 License Quota	Change from 2019-20
Baldwin	340	+31%
Gladwin	120	+9%
Red Oak	770	+10%



# Proposed Regulatory Changes



# Expand Archery-Only Season to Entire NLP

- Currently an archery-only season in the Red Oak BMU
- Proposal: establish an archery-only season in the Baldwin and Gladwin BMUs
  - Consistency across NLP BMUs
  - Increased opportunity
  - Increased harvest
  - Address nuisance issues
- Department supports this proposal



For NRC Consideration





# Allow Bear Baiting Earlier in Michigan

- Currently legal to bait 31 days before the open season in a BMU
- Proposal: begin bear baiting on July 8
- Potential concerns:
  - Increased wolf/bear hound conflicts
  - Increased nuisance issues
  - Bear health
- Department does not support this proposal



# Implement a Youth Bear Hunt

- Currently several options for youth hunters interested in bear hunting
- Proposal: award 18 bear licenses to current-year Hunter Safety graduates
- Potential concerns:
  - Limited impact on opportunity or recruitment
  - Complicated structure
  - Drawings not conducted by Department
- Department does not support this proposal



# Use of Bait Barrels on Department-Managed Lands

- Bait barrels were allowed for two-year trial period
- Proposal: re-instate bait barrels on Department-managed lands
- Potential concerns:
  - Majority have improper identification
  - Majority are left after season
  - Poor compliance on other requirements
- Department does not support this proposal



# Thank You

