

WP26–49 Executive Summary

General Description	Wildlife Proposal WP26-49 requests to increase the hunting harvest limit for coyotes in Unit 18 from 2 to 4 and lengthen the hunting season to August 15—May 31. <i>Submitted by: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council</i>
Proposed Regulation	<p>Unit 18—Coyote Hunting</p> <p><i>Unit 18—4 2 coyotes</i> <i>Sep. 1—Apr. 30</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Aug. 15—May 31</i></p> <p>Unit 18—Coyote Trapping</p> <p><i>No limit</i> <i>Nov. 10—Mar. 31</i></p>
OSM Preliminary Conclusion	Support
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Recommendation	
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Recommendation	
Interagency Staff Committee Comments	
ADF&G Comments	
Written Public Comments	None

Draft Wildlife Analysis WP26-49

ISSUE

Proposal WP26-49, submitted by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (YKD Council) requests to increase the hunting harvest limit for coyotes in Unit 18 from 2 to 4 and lengthen the hunting season to August 15—May 31.

Proponent Statement

The proponent states that this would create additional opportunity for federally qualified subsistence users. Residents of Unit 18 have observed the number of coyotes to be increasing in parts of the unit. There are no known conservation concerns.

Current Federal Regulations

Unit 18—Coyote Hunting

Unit 18—2 coyotes.

Sep. 1—Apr. 30

Unit 18—Coyote Trapping

No limit

Nov. 10—Mar. 31

Proposed Federal Regulations

Unit 18—Coyote Hunting

Unit 18—4 ~~2~~ coyotes

~~Sep. 1—Apr. 30~~

Aug. 15—May 31

Unit 18—Coyote Trapping

No limit

Nov. 10—Mar. 31

Current State Regulations

Unit 18–Coyote Hunting

<i>Resident</i>	<i>2 Coyotes</i>	<i>Sep. 1 – Apr. 30</i>
-----------------	------------------	-------------------------

Unit 18–Coyote Trapping

<i>Resident</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov. 10 – Mar. 31</i>
-----------------	-----------------	--------------------------

Extent of Federal Public Lands

Unit 18 is comprised of approximately 68% Federal public lands that consist of 65% U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and 3% Bureau of Land Management.

Customary and Traditional Use Determination

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) has not made a customary and traditional use determination for coyote in Unit 18. Therefore, all rural residents have a customary and traditional use determination for coyote in Unit 18.

Regulatory History

Hunting regulations for coyotes were transferred from State regulations in 1990 when the Federal subsistence management program was established. Hunting seasons and harvest limits have not changed since under Federal or State regulations.

In 1994, the Board adopted Proposal P94-01, to exclude trappers using a firearm to dispatch a coyote in a trap or snare from the regulation prohibiting the use of a firearm until after 3 a.m. the day following the day on which airborne travel occurred. This proposal was adopted to keep Federal and State regulations the same and prevent user confusion (OSM 1994).

Biological Background

Coyotes expanded their range into Alaska in the early 1900s (ADF&G 2025). Coyote population information in Unit 18 is very limited and comes from hunter and trapper sightings, fur buyers, and voluntary trapper reports. According to the most recent ADF&G furbearer management report, the Unit 18 coyote population is stable and increasing at low levels. Coyotes are established along the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries in the Kilbuck Mountains and are present at low levels along the lower Yukon River, primarily in the uplands (Jones 2013).

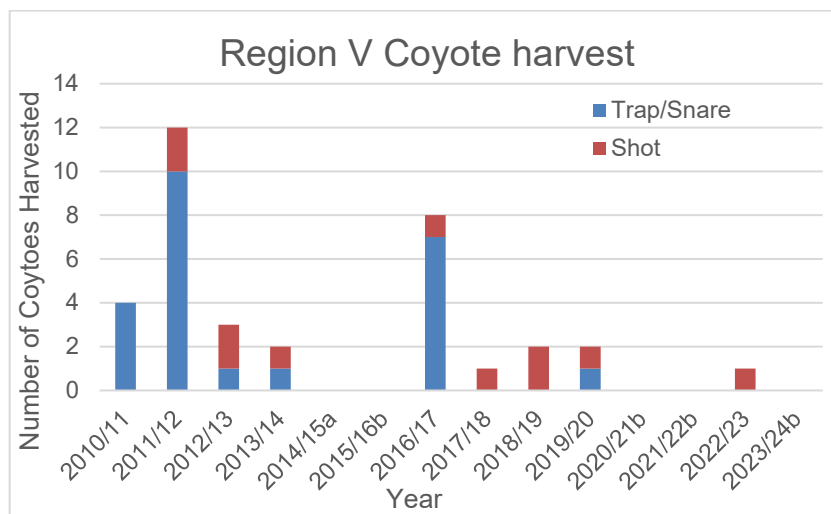
A species trend is calculated by ADF&G and provided in the annual trapper report. The trend calculation includes input from trappers regarding there being fewer, the same, or more animals on the landscape to create the trend of increasing, no change, or decreasing for a species (Bogle 2021a, 2021b, 2022, 2023, and 2025). ADF&G Trapper Reports report information by region, not unit. Unit 18 is part of Region V, which includes Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

Coyotes in Region V were listed as scarce with no changes in the trend starting RY2017/18, changing to scarce with an increasing trend in RY2022/23, and common with an increasing trend in RY2023/24 (Bogle 2021a, 2021b, 2022, 2023, and 2025). This corroborates with local observations and traditional ecological knowledge shared by Council members during the YKD Council meetings that coyote numbers are increasing in Unit 18 (YKDRAC 2025).

Harvest History

Coyotes are a peripheral species to trappers in Unit 18 with very low harvests (Jones 2013). Reported harvest for coyotes is through voluntary questionnaires sent out by ADF&G. This data is gathered by regions, instead of units. Unit 18 is part of Region V – Northwest Alaska, along with Units 22, 23, and 26A (Bogle 2023).

Since 2010, the largest number of coyotes reported shot in one year was two, with up to ten reported from trapping (**Figure 1**). However, since this is a voluntary report and a very large region, it is not an accurate picture of the actual coyote harvest taking place in Unit 18.



^a No trapping report released for this regulatory year.

^b No reports of coyote harvest this regulatory year.

Figure 1. RY2010-2023 ADF&G Region V reported coyote harvest through voluntary trapping questionnaires (Bogle 2021a, 2021b, 2022, 2023, and 2025; Parr 2016, 2017, and 2018; and Spivey 2019 and 2020).

Discussion and Effects

If this proposal is adopted, Federal regulations for coyote hunting in Unit 18 would be liberalized. This would increase opportunity for federally qualified subsistence users to harvest coyote under a hunting license in Unit 18. No conservation concerns are expected as all available information indicates coyote harvest is extremely low, and that population are increasing. Additionally, the trapping harvest limit is ‘no limit’, and coyotes may also be taken by firearm under a trapping license.

However, hides must be salvaged, and the quality of hides during the extended season into August and May is likely lower than during the winter. Adopting these regulatory changes also increase regulatory complexity by misaligning State and Federal hunting regulations for coyote in Unit 18.

OSM PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

Support Proposal WP26-49.

Justification

This proposal increases opportunity for federally qualified subsistence users and there are no conservation concerns.

LITERATURE CITED

ADF&G. 2025. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Coyote (*Canis latrans*) Species Profile. <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=coyote.main>. Retrieved: June 30, 2025.

Bogle, S. E. 2021a. 2019 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2019–30 June 2020. Division of Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2021-2, Juneau.

Bogle, S. E. 2021b. 2020 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2020–30 June 2021. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2021-3, Juneau.

Bogle, S. E. 2022. 2021 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2021–30 June 2022. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2022-1, Juneau.

Bogle, S. E. 2023. 2022 Alaska Trapper Report: 1 July 2022-30 June 2023. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2023-3, Juneau.

Bogle, S. E. 2025. 2023 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2023–30 June 2024. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2025-1, Juneau.

Jones, P. 2013. Unit 18 furbearer. Pages 243–252 [In] P. Harper and L. A. McCarthy, editors. Furbearer management report of survey and inventory activities 1 July 2009–30 June 2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report, ADF&G/DWC/SMR-2013- 5, Juneau.

OSM. 1994. Staff analysis P94-01. Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS. Anchorage, AK. 15pp.

Parr, B. L. 2018. 2013 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2013–30 June 2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2018-1, Juneau.

Parr, B. L. 2016. 2015 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2015–30 June 2016. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2016-1, Juneau.

Parr, B. L. 2017. 2016 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2016–30 June 2017. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2017-3, Juneau.

Parr, B. L. 2018. 2013 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2013–30 June 2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2018-1, Juneau.

Spivey, T. J. 2019. 2017 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2017–30 June 2018. Division of Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2019-3, Juneau.

Spivey, T. J. 2020. 2018 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2018–30 June 2019. Division of Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2020-1, Juneau.

YKDRAC. 2025. Transcripts of Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting, March 4-5, 2025. Office of Subsistence Management. Anchorage, AK.