

**Results of the 2020 grizzly bear
(*Ursus arctos*) and black bear (*U.
americanus*) hunter experience
and effort survey**

February 2025



Results of the 2020 grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*) and black bear (*U. americanus*) hunter experience and effort survey

Government of Yukon
Fish and Wildlife Branch
SR-25-03

Authors

Jodie D. Pongracz, Thomas S. Jung, Catherine Pinard, Robert F. Florkiewicz.

Acknowledgements

Firstly, we thank the respondents who took the time to complete the survey. We thank the Yukon Bureau of Statistics staff for the overall delivery of the survey and Lyndsey Beal and Rachel Westfall for their expertise on survey design. Robert Perry, Matt Clark, Tyler Kuhn, Erin Kohler, Tess Lawrence and Marc Cattet reviewed and approved the report. Funding was provided by the Government of Yukon's Department of Environment.

© 2025 Government of Yukon

Copies available from:

Government of Yukon
Fish and Wildlife Branch, V-5
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
Phone 867-667-5721
Email: environmentyukon@gov.yk.ca
Online: Yukon.ca and open.yukon.ca

Suggested citation:

Pongracz JD, Jung TS, Pinard C, Florkiewicz RF. 2025. Results of the 2020 grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*) and black bear (*U. americanus*) hunter experience and effort survey. Yukon Fish and Wildlife Branch Report SR-25-03, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

Summary

- We surveyed Yukon resident hunters that purchased a black bear and grizzly bear seal in 2020 to better understand their hunting effort, satisfaction and motivations. Additionally, we aimed to gain insight on conflicts between these hunters and bears.
- Respondents consisted of 103 of 148 hunters (70%) that were successful in hunting grizzly bears or black bears in 2020, as well as a representative sample of remaining hunters (587 of 2,940 hunters; 21%) who purchased grizzly bear or black bear seals in 2020 but did not harvest a bear.
- Key findings from our survey of bear seal holders included:
 - Most respondents were male (89%), evenly distributed in age classes ranging from 25–34 to ≥65 years old, and from Whitehorse (78%).
 - Most respondents indicated that their interest in hunting bears either remained the same or increased for both black bears (85%) and grizzly bears (90%).
 - Respondents purchased seals for the ability to hunt black bears and grizzly bears, but also in case they have a conflict with bears. About half of the respondents (53%) indicated they never or rarely hunt for black bears. Close to half (45%) indicated that they would only harvest a grizzly bear if in a conflict situation.
 - More than half of the respondents agreed that protection from bears, dealing with bears that come into camp before they become a problem, in case they encounter a bear they want to harvest, or because they enjoy time on the land, as motivations for purchasing a black bear seal. For grizzly bears, the most common motivation among respondents was for protection from grizzly bears, followed by enjoying being on the land, and to deal with potential problems with bears in a camp.
 - Of 84 respondents that harvested a black bear in 2020, one indicated that this was due to a conflict situation (two preferred not to say). Of 30 respondents that harvested a grizzly bear, three were in a conflict situation (one did not know).
 - Most respondents (57%) indicated that they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with their black bear hunting experience in the Yukon during 2020. A similar per cent (53%) felt the same about their grizzly bear hunting experience.
- Results from our survey are useful in understanding hunting patterns and experience. They help better understand the resident Yukon hunting community. Information from this survey may influence various bear management and outreach programs.
- This survey helps to fulfill recommendations made in the *Conservation Plan for Grizzly Bears (Ursus arctos) in the Yukon* pertaining to human dimensions studies.

Table of Contents

Summary	ii
Introduction	1
Bear harvest management in the Yukon.....	1
Survey aims and objectives.....	2
Methods	3
Survey design.....	3
Survey delivery.....	4
Data analyses	4
Results	5
Respondents.....	5
Section A: Black bear hunting effort	6
Section B: Black bear hunter motivation and experience	13
Section C: Grizzly bear hunting effort.....	16
Section D: Grizzly bear hunter motivation and experience	22
Section E: Human-bear conflict	25
Section F: Overall Satisfaction.....	29
References	31
Appendices	32
Appendix 1. 2020 Hunter Experience and Effort Survey	32
Appendix 2. Information sheet.....	53

Introduction

Bear harvest management in the Yukon

Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) and grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) are distributed widely across much of the Yukon, where their abundance is limited by available food resources. The Yukon is home to an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 grizzly bears (Smith and Osmond-Jones 1990), and an estimated 10,000 black bears. However, there is considerable uncertainty regarding these estimates, which are based on limited data (YGBCMPWG 2019). In Canada, grizzly bears are a species of Special Concern (COSEWIC 2012) and listed in the federal Species at Risk Act, whereas black bears are considered Not at Risk (COSEWIC 1999).

Although there may be concerns about the total mortality of grizzly bears in some parts of the Yukon, it is believed that they are doing well in the territory (YGBCMPWG 2019). For grizzly bears this is not the case in other parts of Canada or globally. Grizzly bears are long lived, with low reproductive rates. In particular, grizzly bears are slow to recover from population declines. As such, the overarching aim of the 2019 conservation plan for grizzly bears in the Yukon is to ensure careful management for their long-term persistence (YGBCMPWG 2019).

Black bears and grizzly bears are listed as 'Big Game' under the Yukon Wildlife Act. To hunt these bears, licensed hunters are required to have a hunting licence and a seal specific to the species of bear they wish to hunt. In the 2020/2021 season, big game seals for Yukon residents were \$5 for black bear and \$25 for grizzly bear.

The harvest of black bears and grizzly bears is managed by the timing and length of the hunting season, limitations on seal purchase and restrictions to protect females with cubs. Currently, for both species, the spring hunting season is from 15 April to 21 June, and the fall hunting season is from 1 August to 15 November. Licensed resident hunters can harvest up to two black bears each year, whereas each hunter can harvest only one grizzly bear every three years. Females with cubs and cubs of both species are protected from hunting. Bear seals issued can be used in any subzone open to bear hunting.

Hunters harvesting a black bear are required to take either the meat or the pelt, without penalty for abandoning the other. Abandoning both is unlawful. For grizzly bears, it is against the law to waste the hide; however, hunters are not required to take the meat.

People that do not have a bear seal can also, as a last resort, kill either species of bear in defence of life or property. In these instances, killed bears must be reported to a conservation officer as soon as practical so that it can be investigated. Many Yukoners choose to carry bear seals in case they have a conflict with bears, and not because they plan to harvest a bear (Jung et al. 2018, YGBCMPWG 2019). In 2020, 2,337 resident licensed

hunters purchased seals to hunt black bears and 1,994 purchased grizzly bear seals. This represents approximately 1/4 and 1/3 of the estimated number of black bears and grizzly bears in the territory, respectively.

The Department of Environment has the responsibility to ensure bear mortality remains within sustainable limits. Broad direction for managing the harvest of grizzly bears can be found in the Yukon's conservation plan for grizzly bears (YGBCMPWG 2019).

What is DLP?

DLP stands for Defending Life or Property. A DLP kill refers to when where a bear is killed in defence of life or property. In the Yukon, a person can kill a bear in defence of their or another person's life if there is an imminent or immediate threat of harm, and they have made an effort to avoid the threat using all practical means. A person can also kill a bear if there is a significant immediate threat to property damage, also under the condition that all practical means of avoiding the threat have been attempted. However, a person cannot kill a bear that has been attracted to a kill site or the meat of a harvested animal unless it is necessary for self-defence. A bear killed in defence of life or property must be immediately reported to a conservation officer. Generally, there is an assessment of the incident before the bear is removed. In rare circumstances the conservation officer may ask an individual to document the event and prepare the head and hide so it doesn't spoil.

Survey aims and objectives

Understanding the motivations, behaviour and experience of hunters can help inform harvest management. The Department of Environment has periodically conducted surveys of hunters (e.g., Jung et al. 2021, 2023, 2024). These surveys are used to gather data on hunting patterns and experience. They help wildlife managers (including First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board) better understand the Yukon resident hunting community. The survey information factors into decisions regarding hunting regulations and various wildlife management programs, such as hunter workshops.

The last hunter effort survey for bears was conducted in 2013 (Sawatzky 2013). However, a broader public survey was completed in 2018 as part of an information gathering and engagement strategy for developing a grizzly bear conservation plan (Jung et al. 2018). The purpose of this survey was to gain an improved understanding of the effort, patterns and motivations of Yukon bear hunters. This survey was also developed to better understand seal purchasers' perception of bear conflicts and what steps hunters take to reduce chances of having human-bear conflicts. This information will allow us to direct education efforts, as needed.

This report provides a summary of 'what we heard' to survey respondents and other interested persons. We outline our survey design and delivery, and summarize the

responses received for questions posed in the survey. Responses are provided as a whole, to maintain respondent confidentiality. Similar to other Yukon hunter surveys (Jung et al. 2021, 2022, 2024), we do not provide a detailed interpretation of these data.

Methods

Survey design

In cooperation with the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, we designed a survey that could be delivered both online and by telephone. The survey consisted of six sections ([Appendix 1](#)). The initial question asked hunters if they ever purchased seals for either black bears or grizzly bears, and if so which species. We used skip logic to increase efficiency and save time. For instance, if respondents had never purchased seals for one species or the other, they were not asked questions specific to that species. Respondents who had never purchased a seal for either black bears or grizzly bears were thanked for their time and the survey ended.

Section A (12 questions) focused on how respondents hunted black bears to establish a better understanding of hunting interest and effort, hunt details (e.g. length of hunt, transportation methods, timing), whether hunters primarily purchase seals for conflict situations, and if hunters harvested bears in a conflict situation. Section C covered this same information but for grizzly bears.

Sections B and D (15 questions) focused on understanding hunter motivation and experience in carrying black bear and grizzly bear seals. Respondents were asked about their level of agreement with a series of statements about motivations to purchase bear seals. These sections also included questions about conflict with bears during the harvest of another animal.

Section E (9 questions) was related to human-bear conflict and asked questions pertaining to hunter's perceptions of conflict situations. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a series of statements regarding perceived conflict situations. Respondents were also asked about what precautions they take for bear safety and to avoid conflict situations while hunting.

Section F (9 questions) focused on overall satisfaction with bear hunting opportunities in the Yukon. Questions focused on satisfaction with the hunting experience, administrative process (understanding hunting regulations, mandatory reporting/compulsory submissions), and in interacting with the Department of Environment.

Survey delivery

Our survey focused on Yukon hunters that purchased black bear or grizzly bears seals for the 2020 hunting season. Previous hunter effort surveys have documented that hunters purchase bear seals for reasons other than to harvest these species. Acknowledging this, we wanted to ensure that our sample size consisted of not only those who purchased seals for reasons other than hunting, but also those who actively hunted bears. As such, we aimed to survey all bear seal holders that successfully hunted a bear in 2020, and a representative sample of those that were unsuccessful. The survey was sent to all 148 hunters that harvested a bear in 2020, and one-third (942 of 2,792) of those hunters who purchased a black bear or grizzly bear seal and did not harvest a bear.

Our survey was delivered by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics. They sent paper questionnaires to seal holders 65 years of age and older, and an email with a link to the survey to seal holders under 65 years of age. An information sheet regarding the survey approach was included with both paper and digital surveys (see [Appendix 2](#)). The collection period for paper and online surveys was from 15 January to 8 February 2021. Subsequently, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics attempted to contact all non-respondents and deliver the survey by telephone interview. The telephone-based interviews were held from 12 February to 16 March 2021. All data were compiled by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

Data analyses

Here, we provide a basic summary of the results reported by survey respondents. We supply the number of respondents answering each question. Survey respondents could respond by indicating, 'Don't know', or 'Prefer not to say'. These responses were not included in the sample sizes, nor when calculating per cent frequency of each choice. However, the number of respondents who indicated 'Don't know' or 'Prefer not to say' are noted in the captions of tables and figures, where applicable.

We targeted a greater proportion of successful hunters (100%) relative to hunters that purchased seals and did not harvest a bear (34%). Because we anticipated differences between these two groups of bear seal holders, we presented results for some questions collectively and for others we provide responses by grouping of whether respondents were from the 'successful hunter' group or from the 'unsuccessful hunter' group.

In addition, because some seal holders likely did not plan to harvest a bear, but obtained a seal in the unlikely event they had a conflict with a bear, we present some results for questions collectively and for others we include results for responses by categorizing them into two groups, those that purchased seals in case of a conflict ('Buy for conflict') and those that bought a seal to hunt ('Buy to hunt').

Results

Respondents

We received 700 responses to the survey, of these 644 respondents obtained black bear seals. This represented 28% of the total 2,337 black bear seal holders in 2020. For grizzly bear, 527 respondents purchased seals. This represented 26% of the 1,994 grizzly bear seal holders for 2020. Most respondents (576 of the 700 respondents; 83%) answered sections on both bear species, however, 90 respondents (23%) answered only black bear hunter sections, and 34 respondents (5%) answered only grizzly bear sections. In total, there were 2,940 individuals who purchased black bear or grizzly bear seals in 2020. Of these, 148 successfully harvested at least one bear. Among survey respondents there were 103 successful hunters, and 597 unsuccessful hunters; thus, we surveyed 70% of the successful hunters who purchased seals and 21% of the unsuccessful hunters who purchased seals in 2020.

All respondents were Yukon residents. Our survey was not distributed to non-resident hunters. Most respondents were from Whitehorse (78%), followed by those in the Liard (6%), Southern Lakes (6%), Northern (4%), Kluane (3%) and Central (2%) regions (Table 1). The average age of respondents was 48 (range = 13–89). Most respondents were male (89%; Table 2).

Table 1. Survey respondents by region of the Yukon.

Region	Communities	Number	Per cent
Whitehorse	Whitehorse	546	78%
Southern Lakes	Carcross, Marsh Lake, Tagish, Teslin	45	6%
Liard	Faro, Ross River, Watson Lake	43	6%
Northern Yukon	Dawson, Old Crow	27	4%
Kluane	Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction	23	3%
Central Yukon	Carmacks, Keno, Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Stewart Crossing	16	2%
Total		700	100%

Table 2. Survey respondents by gender and age.

Age Group	Female		Male	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<25 years old	4	1%	21	3%
25-34 year old	26	4%	128	18%
35-44 years old	12	2%	135	19%
45-54 years old	15	2%	125	18%
55-64 years old	11	2%	95	14%
≥65 years old	10	1%	118	17%
Totals	78	11%	622	89%

Section A: Black bear hunting effort

We asked respondents how frequently they hunt for black bears in the Yukon, including unsuccessful hunts (Question A1). About half of the respondents (53%) indicated they never or rarely hunt for black bears, while 10% indicated they sometimes hunt for black bears, and 37% of respondents indicated they often or always hunt for them (Table 3).

Table 3. Results from question A1. How frequently do you hunt black bear in Yukon, including unsuccessful hunts? Sample size = 652; 14 respondents indicated, 'Prefer not to say'.

Frequency	Number	Per cent
Never	273	42%
Rarely	74	11%
Sometimes	63	10%
Often	66	10%
Always	176	27%

A large percentage of respondents who Never and Always hunt black bears can be explained by viewing results in consideration of whether respondents purchased seals in case of a conflict with bears ('Buy for conflict') or whether they wanted to hunt them ('Buy to hunt'; Figure 1). Most respondents who 'Buy for conflict' Never or Rarely hunted, whereas most respondents who 'Buy to hunt' Often or Always hunt bear.

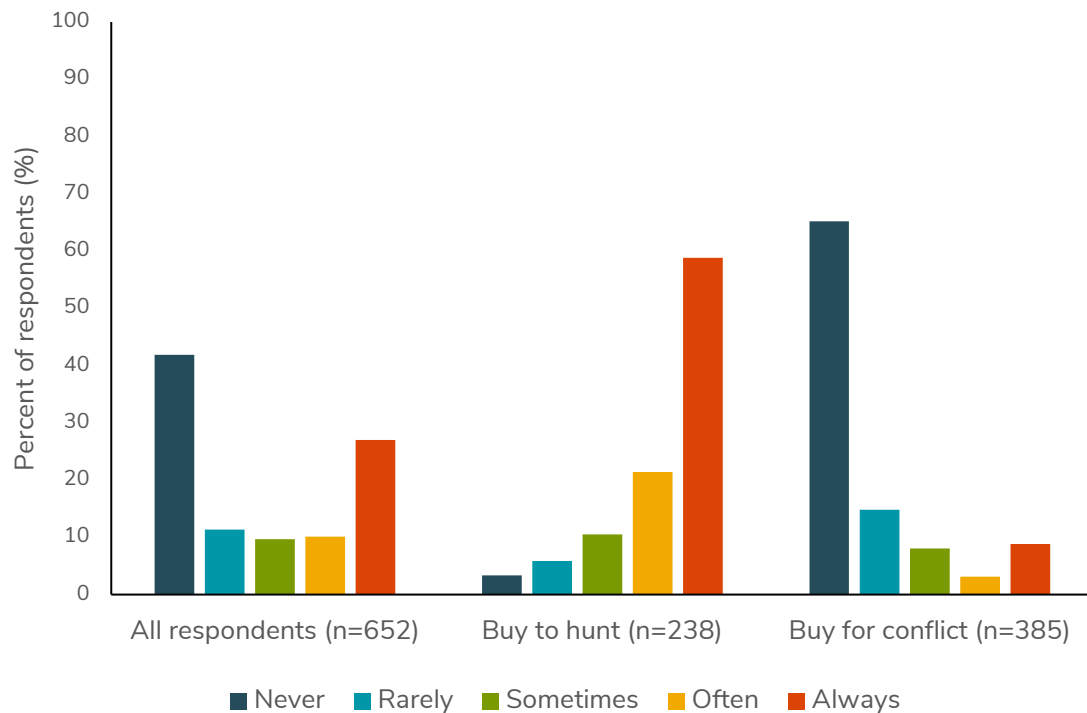


Figure 1. Results from question A1. How frequently do you hunt black bear in Yukon, including unsuccessful hunts? displayed for 'All respondents' (all respondents who answered the question), 'Buy to hunt' (respondents who indicated they did not purchase seals for conflict reasons (answered no to question A6)), and 'Buy for conflict' (respondents who indicated they purchased seals in case of a conflict with bears (answered yes to question A6)). Figure displays per cent of respondents who indicated they Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often, and Always, hunt for black bears in Yukon.

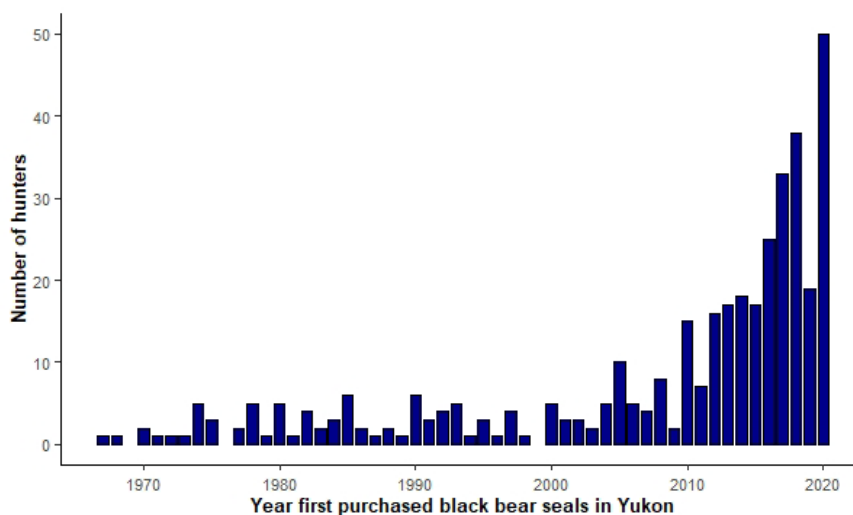


Figure 2. Results from question A2. What was the first year you purchased a seal for black bear in Yukon? Sample size = 380; an additional 279 respondents answered, 'Don't know' and 7 respondents answered, 'Prefer not to say'.

We asked hunters to provide the year they first purchased a seal for black bears in the Yukon (Question A2). The number of hunters purchasing black bear seals for the first time began to increase in the mid-2000s and has steadily grown (Figure 2).

We also asked respondents how many black bears they harvested in their lifetime (Question A3). A total of 219 (36%) respondents indicated that they had harvested at least one black bear in their lifetime; whereas 390 (64%) respondents indicated they did not harvest a bear in their lifetime. Successful black bear hunters harvested an average of 1.0 ± 2.9 black bears (standard deviation; range = 1–35; Figure 3).

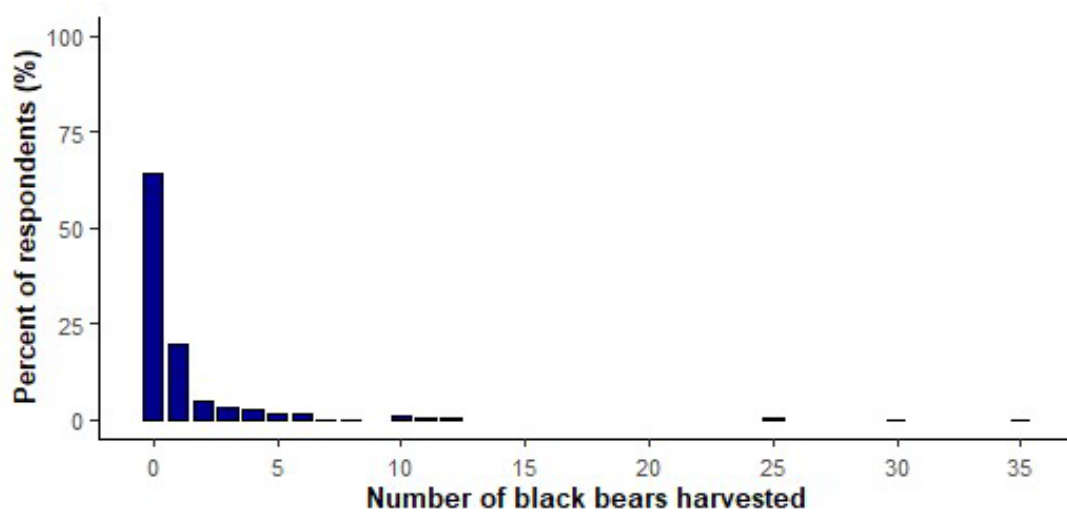


Figure 3 (above). Results from question A3. How many black bears have you harvested in your lifetime in Yukon? Sample size = 309; 43 respondents answered, 'Don't know' and 14 respondents answered, 'Prefer not to say'.

Hunters who indicated they harvested at least one bear in their lifetime were asked how many bears they harvested due to a conflict situation (Question A4). Of 219 respondents that reported to have harvested black bear, 30 (14%) reported to have harvested black bear in a conflict situation at least once in their lifetime. These 30 hunters harvested an average of 2.0 ± 2.0 black bears in a conflict context (standard deviation; range = 1–10; Figure 4).

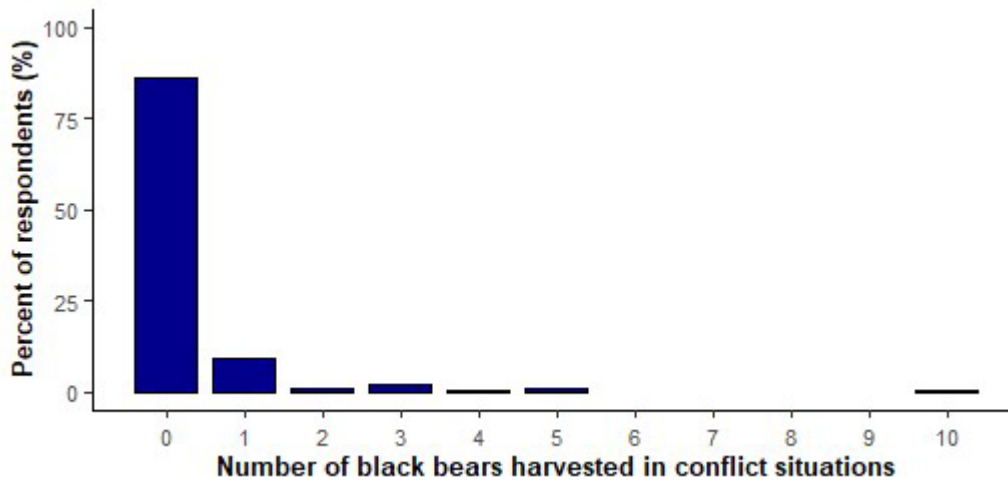


Figure 4. Results from question A4. **How many of these were harvested as a result of a conflict situation?** Sample size = 214; 1 respondent answered, 'Don't know' and 3 respondents answered, 'Prefer not to say'.

We asked hunters if they obtained a black bear seal in 2020 (Question A5). Of the hunters surveyed, 572 indicated they obtained a black bear seal in 2020, 14 indicated they did not, and eight responded, 'Prefer not to say'.

We asked hunters if they did not plan to hunt a black bear but bought a seal in case they have a conflict with a bear (Question A6). Almost 2/3 of respondents (62%, 389 of 633 respondents) indicated was the case. We then examined this question specific to the different survey groups. Only 10 of 101 respondents (10%) in the 'successful hunter' group indicated that they purchased seals in case they have a conflict, whereas 379 of 532 (71%) in the 'other hunter' survey group indicated they did so.

Hunters that indicated they successfully hunted a black bear in 2020 were asked if they harvested the bear in a conflict situation (Question A7). Of 84 respondents that indicated they were successful at harvesting a black bear in 2020, one indicated this was a bear in a conflict situation, 81 indicated it was not, and two preferred not to say.

We also asked hunters what type of transportation they most frequently used (Question A8). Most hunters travelled by vehicle, on foot, or by ATV or Argo (Figure 5). A smaller number of hunters travelled by motorized or non-motorized boats or flew in by aircraft. Hunters that indicated "Other" said they travelled by fat bike (n = 2) or a mixture of those listed (n = 2). No respondents indicated horseback as mode of transportation.

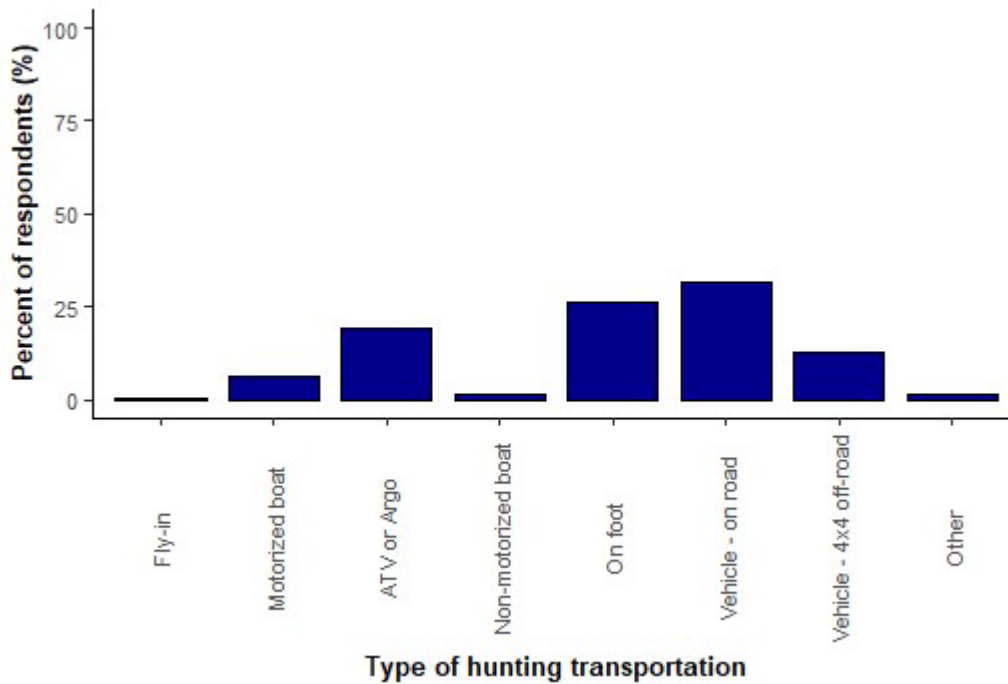


Figure 5. Results from question A8. When black bear hunting in 2020, what type of hunting transportation did you most frequently use? Sample size = 234; 7 respondents answered, 'Prefer not to say'.

Respondents were asked whether their black bear hunting effort increased, decreased or stayed the same compared to the last time they held a black bear seal. Most hunters (136 of 217; 63%) indicated that it stayed the same; 48 (22%) indicated that it increased, and 33 (15%) indicated that it decreased, while 13 answered, 'Don't know', and four preferred not to say. More than half of respondents that said their hunting effort increased (28 of 48; 60%) indicated they hunted more because they had more available time. There were several reasons hunting effort increased (Figure 6).

We also asked respondents why their hunting effort decreased. More than half of respondents (20 of 33; 61%) identified a lack of time as a reason their hunting effort decreased; other reasons were provided (Figure 7).

We asked hunters how many trips they make specifically to hunt for black bears (Question A10), 33 of 208 respondents (16%) did not make any trips to hunt specifically for black bears. The 175 black bear hunters that did make specific trips made an average of 4.0 ± 4.4 black bear hunting trips (range = 1–35; Figure 8).

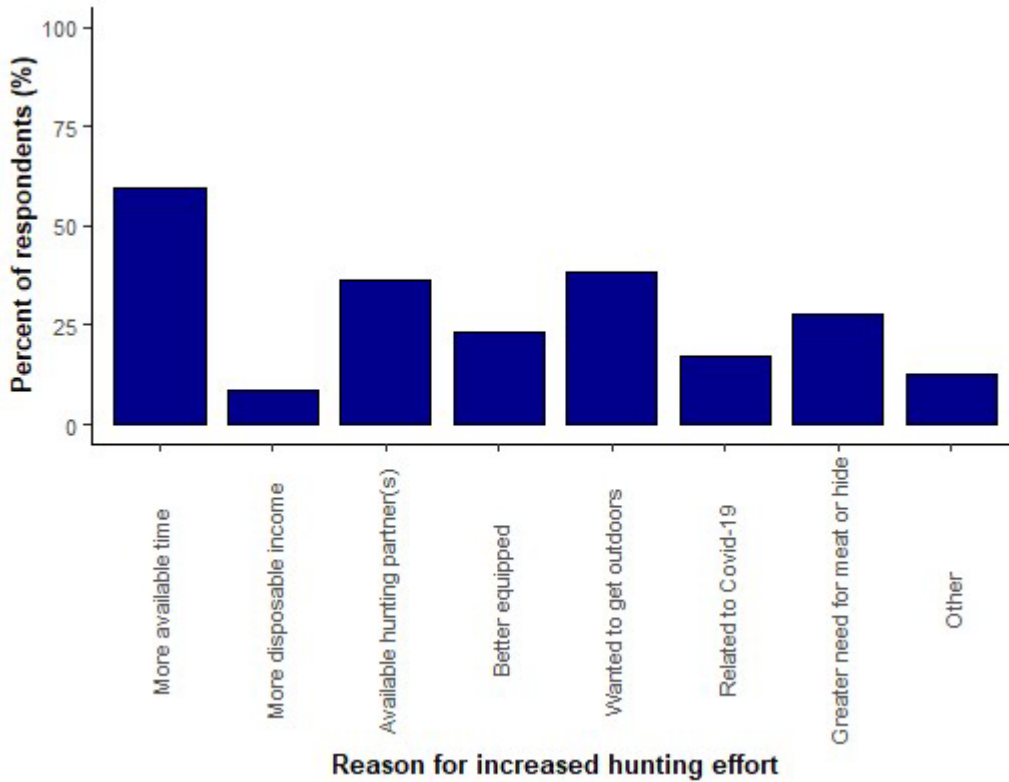


Figure 6. Results from question A9.1 Why did your effort increase? Sample size = 47; 1 respondent answered, 'Don't know'.

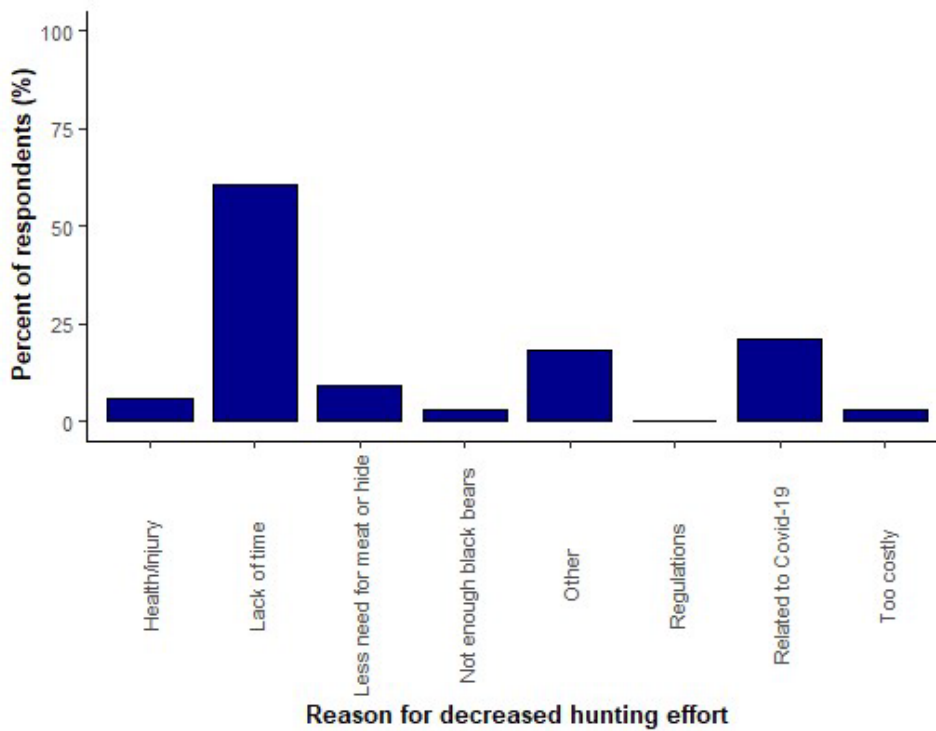


Figure 7. Results from question A9.2 Why did your effort decrease? Sample size = 33; 1 respondent answered, 'None of the above'.

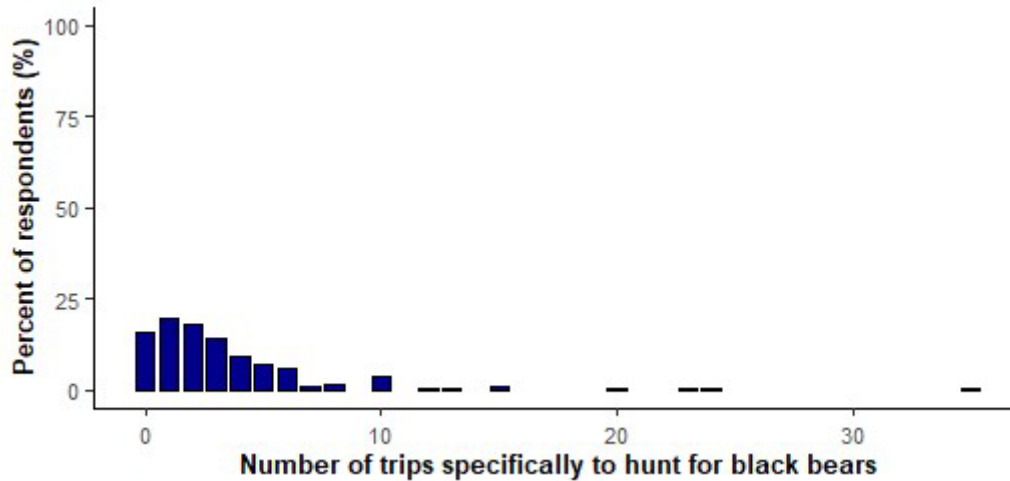


Figure 8. Results from question A10. **How many trips specifically to hunt for black bear did you make during the 2020 season in Yukon?** Sample size = 208; 23 respondents indicated, 'Don't know', eight respondents indicated, 'Prefer not to say'. Note: any partial day trips (e.g. an afternoon hunt or carrying a gun when travelling on the highway in case the opportunity to take an animal arises) count as a single hunting trip.

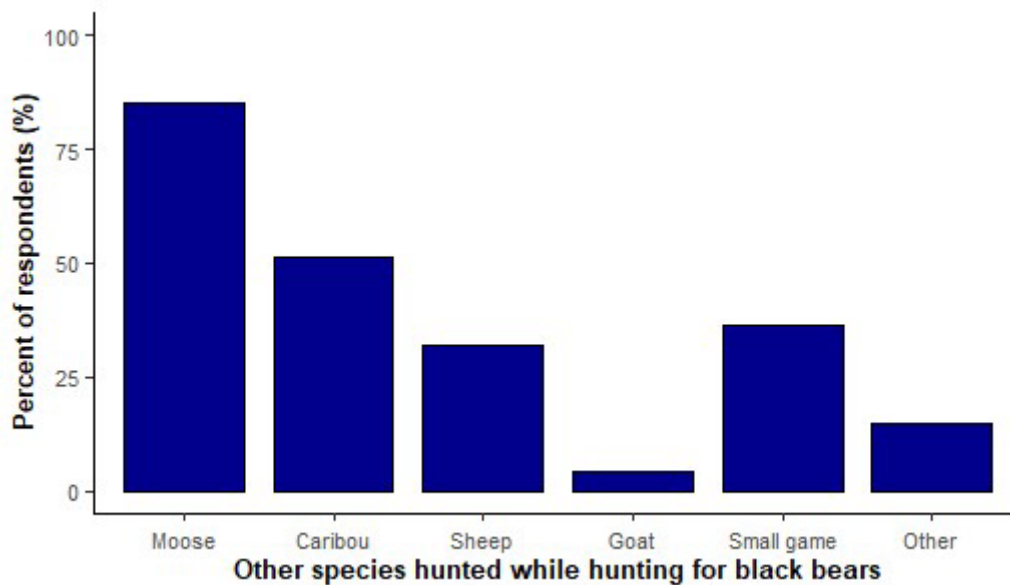


Figure 9. Results from question A11. **Did you hunt for black bears while hunting for other species in 2020? Which species, check all that apply?** Sample size = 148.

We also asked hunters if they hunted for black bears when they were hunting for other species (Question A11), and if yes, which species they hunted while hunting black bears (Question A11.1). Most respondents 149 of 224 (67%) hunted black bears while hunting other species; one respondent indicated, 'Prefer not to say'. Most respondents (126 of 128; 85%) hunted black bears while hunting moose (*Alces americanus*); half of the respondents (76 of 148; 51%) hunted black bears while hunting caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*; [Figure 9](#)).

Within the *Others* category (22/148; 15%), 17 respondents hunted black bears while hunting grizzly bear, two while hunting bison (*Bison bison*), two while fishing and one while hunting elk (*Cervus canadensis*).

We asked hunters to provide the approximate number of days in each season (spring and fall) they carried a black bear seal with intent to use it (i.e., hunt a bear) in each game management zone (GMZ; Question A12). In the spring, 141 respondents hunted black bears for an average of 11.5 ± 22.6 days (range = 1–180). In the fall, 108 respondents hunted black bears for an average of 18.7 ± 31.8 days (range = 1–214). The largest effort in both spring and fall seasons occurred in GMZ 5 and 7 (Figure 10).

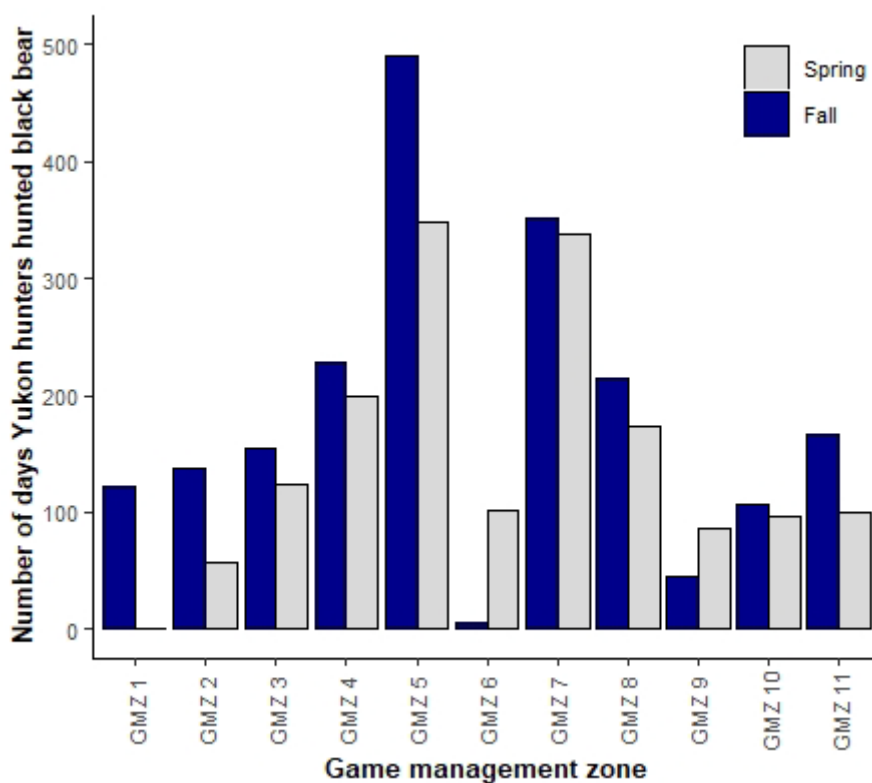


Figure 10. Results from question A12.1 For each of the following Game Management Zones, indicate the approximate number of days in each season that you hunted and carried a black bear seal with intent to use it. Note: each partial day of hunting was considered a whole day.

Section B: Black bear hunter motivation and experience

We asked hunters about their confidence in identifying the sex of black bears (Question B12). Most respondents who purchased seals to hunt black bears and those who purchased seals for reasons related to conflict both indicated confidence in ability to tell female and male black bears apart (Figure 11).

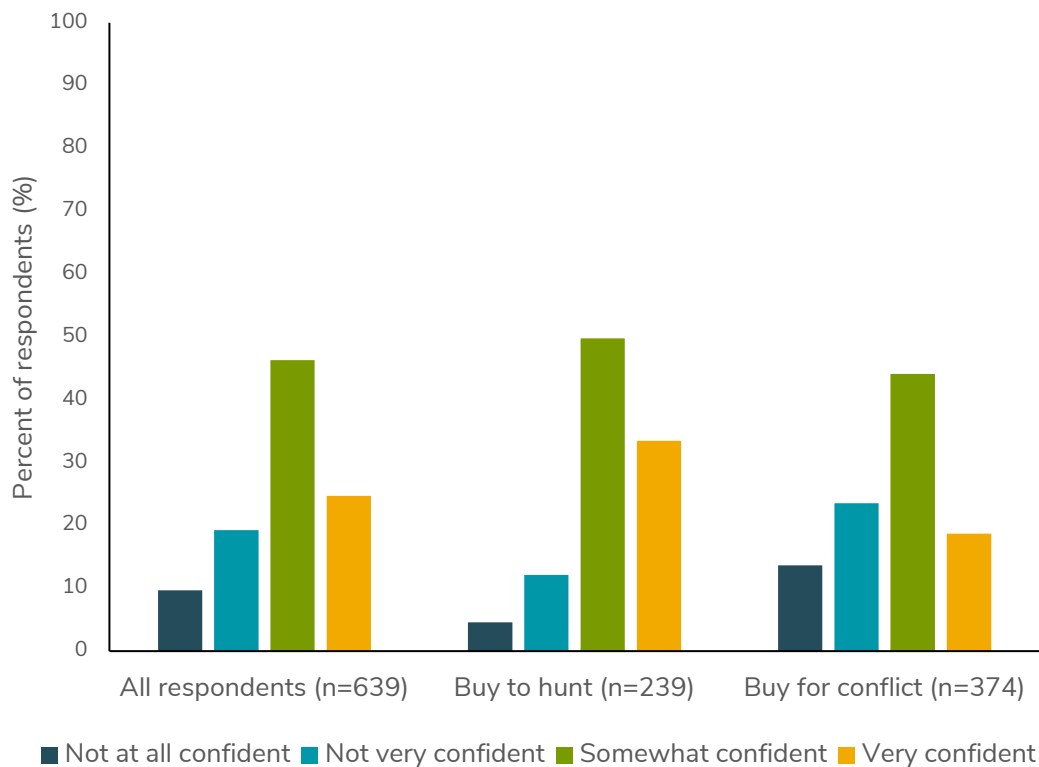


Figure 11. Results from question B14. **How confident are you in your ability to tell female and male black bears apart?** Results displayed for ‘All respondents’ (all respondents who answered the question), ‘Buy to hunt’ (respondents who indicated they did not purchase seals for conflict reasons (answered no to question A6)), and ‘Buy for conflict’ (respondents who indicated they purchased seals in case of a conflict with bears (answered yes to question A6)). Figure displays percentage of respondents in each level of confidence (Not at all confident, Not very confident, Somewhat confident, and Very confident). Sample sizes (n) noted after respondent groups.

We asked hunters to indicate their level of agreement with a series of statements pertaining to motivations for purchasing a black bear seal (Questions B1 to B 13). More than half of the respondents agreed that protection from bears, dealing with bears that come into camp before they become a problem, in case they encounter a bear they want to harvest, or because they enjoy time on the land, as motivations for purchasing a bear seal (Figure 12).

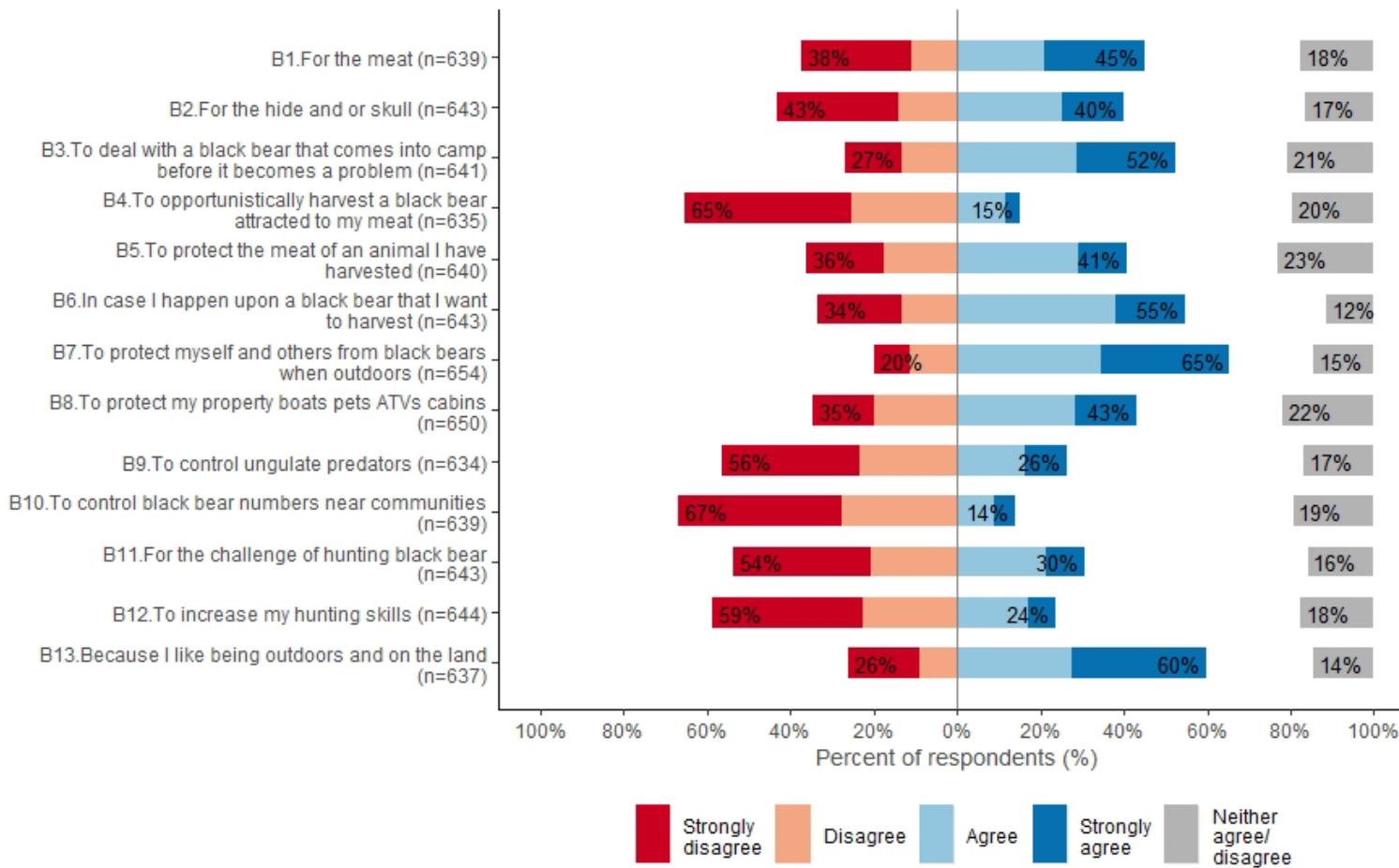


Figure 11. Results from question B1 – B13. Why do you purchase black bear seals? Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with each of

the statements listed on the left. Figure displays percentage of respondents in each level of agreement (*Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly agree, Neither agree/disagree*). Per cent of responses that disagree (summed per cent of *Strongly disagree*, and *Disagree*) displayed on the left, per cent of responses that agree (summed per cent of *Agree* and *Strongly agree*) displayed in center, per cent of responses that *Neither agree/disagree* displayed on right. Sample sizes (n) noted after respondent groups.

We asked respondents if they have ever had a black bear take, or attempt to take, their meat from another species they harvested (Question B15), and if so, how many times had this occurred (Question B15.1). Of 650 respondents, 90 (14%) indicated that this happened to them in the past; 16 respondents preferred not to say. Of the 90 hunters that had a black bear take, or attempt to take, their harvested meat, 35 hunters (39%) had this occur once, 22 hunters (24%) had this occur twice, 8 hunters (9%) had this occur three times, 19 hunters (21%) had this occur four times; 6 respondents (6.67%) preferred not to say.

Section C: Grizzly bear hunting effort

We asked respondents how frequently they were interested in harvesting grizzly bears (Question C1; Table 3). Close to half (45%) indicated they would only harvest a grizzly bear if in a conflict situation, and 85 respondents (14%) indicated they would harvest a grizzly bear as often as they can (Table 3).

Table 3. Results from question C1. Which of the following statements best represents your interest in harvesting grizzly bears? Sample size = 587; 10 respondents answered, “Don’t know”, 13 respondents indicated, “Prefer not to say”.

Frequency	Number	Per cent
Once in my lifetime	93	16%
More than once	121	21%
As often as I can	85	14%
Only if I have to deal with a conflict situation	266	45%
Other	22	4%

We wanted to know more about how grizzly seal purchases have changed over time. We asked hunters to indicate the year they first purchased a seal for grizzly bears in the Yukon (Question C2). Results suggest a rise in the number of hunters purchasing grizzly bear seals for the first time starting in the early 2010s (Figure 13).

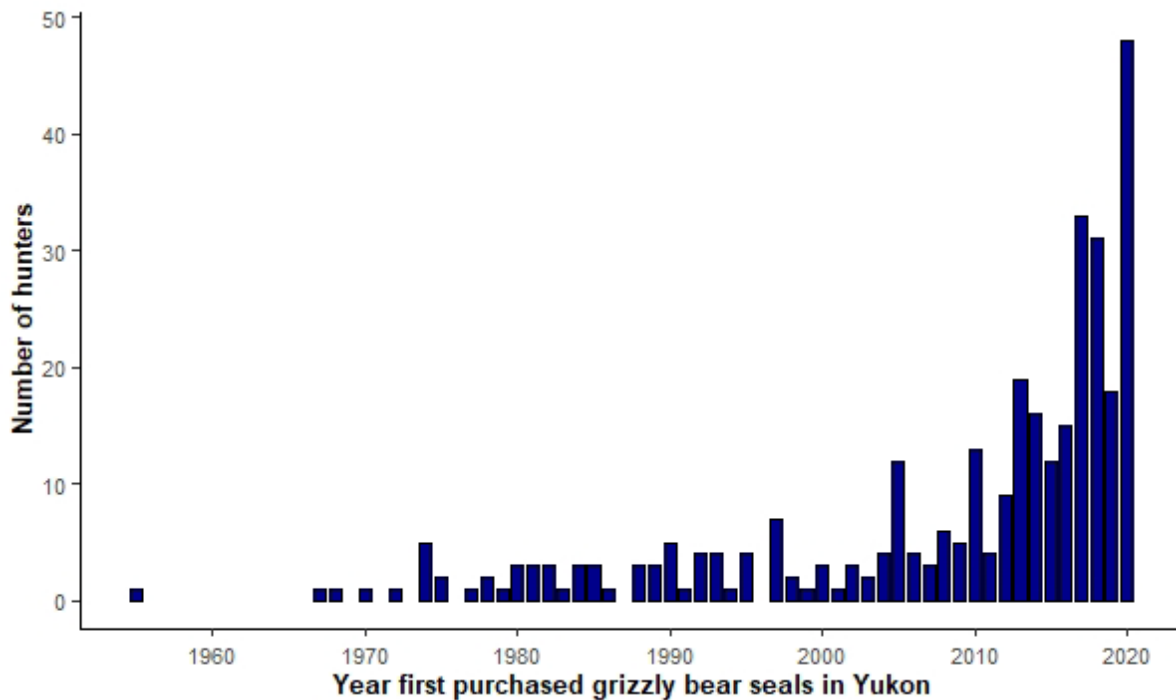


Figure 13. Results from question C2. What was the first year you purchased a seal for grizzly bear in Yukon? Sample size = 329; an additional 270 respondents answered, 'Don't know' and 11 respondents answered, 'Prefer not to say'.

We asked hunters how many grizzly bears they harvested in their lifetime (Question C3). Most respondents (433 of 568; 76%) indicated they have never harvested a grizzly bear, 135 (24%) indicated that they had harvested at least one grizzly bear in their lifetime (Figure 14). Successful grizzly bear hunters harvested an average of 1.6 ± 1.3 grizzly bears (range = 1–10) in their lifetime (Figure 14).

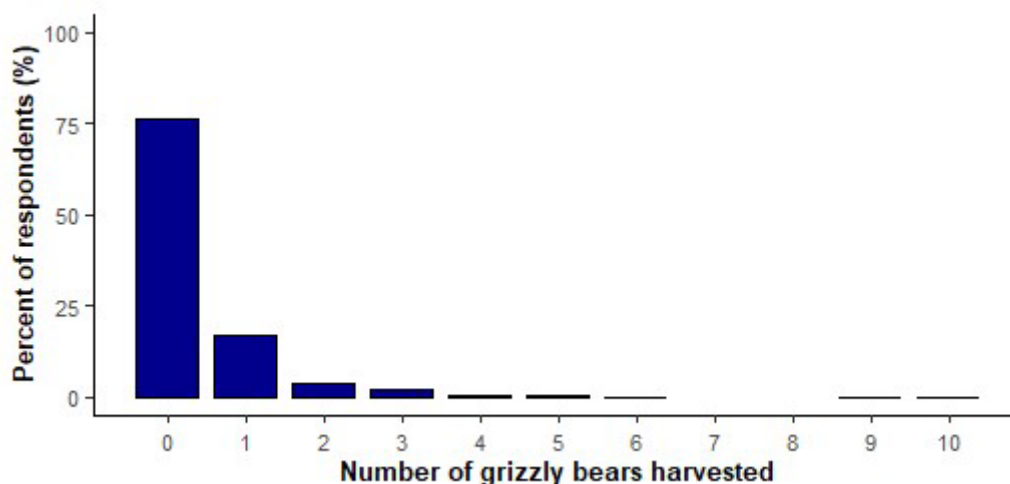


Figure 14. Results from question C3. How many grizzly bears have you harvested in your lifetime in Yukon? Sample size = 568, an additional 22 respondents indicated, 'Don't know', and 20 respondents answered, 'Prefer not to say'.

We asked hunters how many bears they harvested because of a conflict situation (Question C4). Of the 135 respondents that reported to have harvested a grizzly bear in their lifetime, 34 (25%) indicated to have harvested a grizzly bear in a conflict situation at least once in their lifetime, and one responded, 'Don't know'. These 34 hunters harvested an average of 1.4 ± 1.1 grizzly bears in a conflict situation (standard deviation; range = 1-6) during their lifetime (Figure 15).

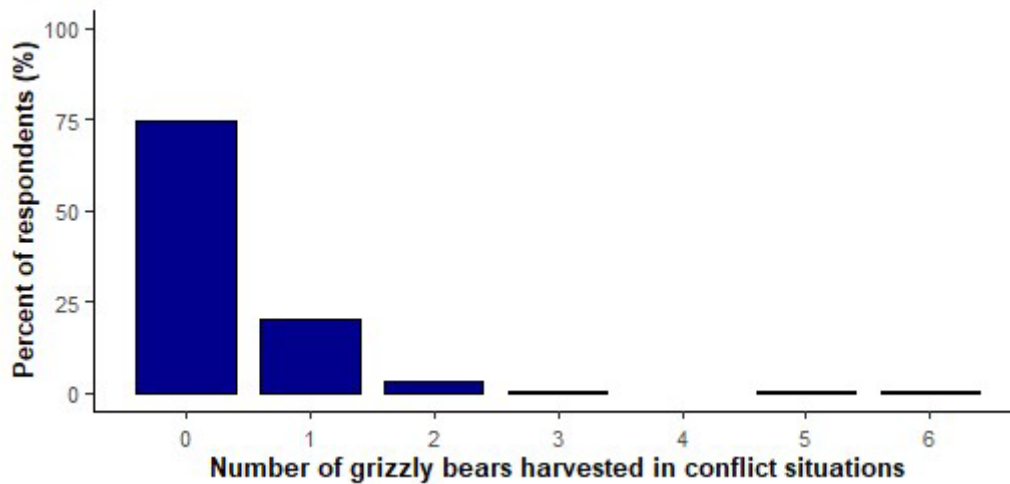


Figure 15. Results from question C4. **How many of these were harvested as a result of a conflict situation?** Sample size = 134; an additional respondent answered 'Don't know'.

We asked respondents who purchased a grizzly bear seal in 2020 if they bought it in case they have a conflict with grizzly bear but did not plan to hunt one (Question C7). Of 515 grizzly bear seal purchasers who responded to this question, 365 (71%) indicated that it was the reason they purchased the seal, whereas three respondents answered, 'Don't know', and nine preferred not to say. Respondents who were not eligible for a grizzly bear seal in 2020 were asked to answer this question if they had been eligible (Question C6). Sixteen of 26 respondents (62%) who answered indicated that it was; two respondents preferred not to say. Collectively 381 of 541 respondents (70%) indicated they purchased grizzly bear seals in case they have a conflict with a grizzly bear.

Because our survey was delivered to all successful bear hunters and only a sample of other hunters, we expected that respondents from the 'successful hunters' group would answer this question differently than the sample of 'other hunters', so we examined this question specific to the different survey groups. Only 24 of 87 respondents (24%) in the 'successful hunter' group indicated that they purchased grizzly bear seals in case they have a conflict with a bear, whereas 357 of 454 (79%) in the 'other hunter' group indicated that they did so.

We asked hunters if they successfully harvested a grizzly bear in 2020 (Question C8). Of 521 respondents, 30 (5%) indicated that they harvested a grizzly bear in 2020, 491 (93%)

indicated they did not harvest a grizzly bear in 2020, and six respondents preferred not to say. We asked successful grizzly bear hunters if they harvested the bear in a conflict situation (Question C8.1). Of 30 respondents, three (10%) indicated they harvested the grizzly bear in a conflict situation, 26 (87%) indicated they did not, and one respondent (3%) did not know.

We also asked hunters what type of transportation they most frequently used when hunting grizzly bears in 2020 (Question C9). Most respondents travelled by ATV or Argo, on foot, by motorized boat or by vehicle (Figure 16). A smaller number of hunters travelled by fly-in, non-motorized boat, and horseback. A single respondent indicated other, and commented 'on property', suggesting they did not use transportation.

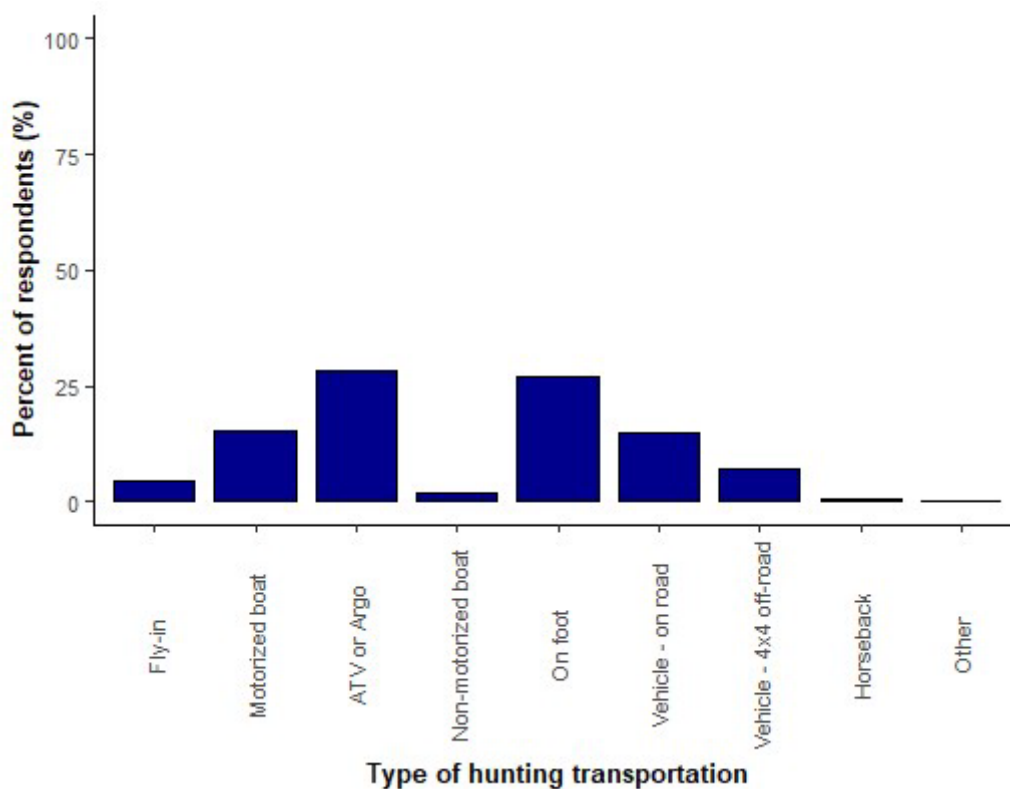


Figure 16. Results from question C9. When grizzly bear hunting in 2020, what type of hunting transportation did you most frequently use? Sample size = 272; an additional 40 respondents answered, 'Prefer not to say'.

We asked hunters whether their grizzly bear hunting effort increased, decreased or stayed the same in 2020 compared to the last time they held a grizzly bear seal (Question C10). Most hunters (230 of 298; 77%) indicated that it stayed the same, 39 respondents (13%) indicated that it increased, and 29 respondents (10%) indicated that it decreased, while 31 respondents did not know, and 30 respondents preferred not to say.

We then asked hunter why their effort increased or decreased (Questions C10.2 and C10.2). There were various reasons hunting effort increased (Figure 17).

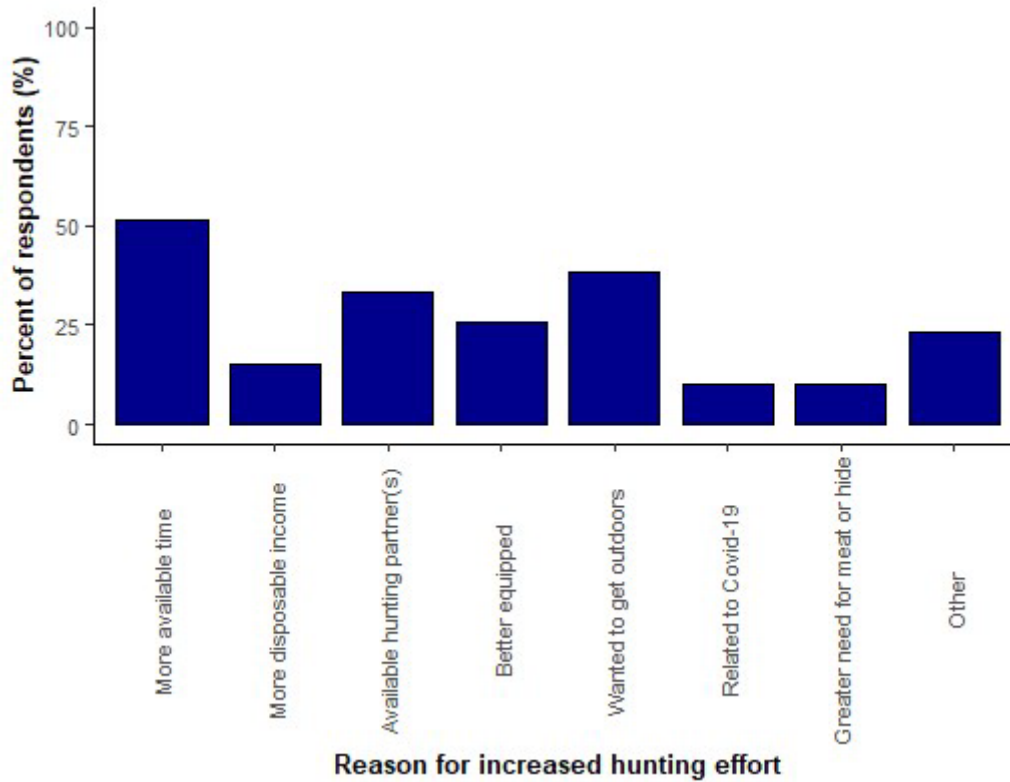


Figure 17. Results from question A10.1 Why did your effort increase? Sample size = 39. One additional respondent indicated, 'None of the above'.

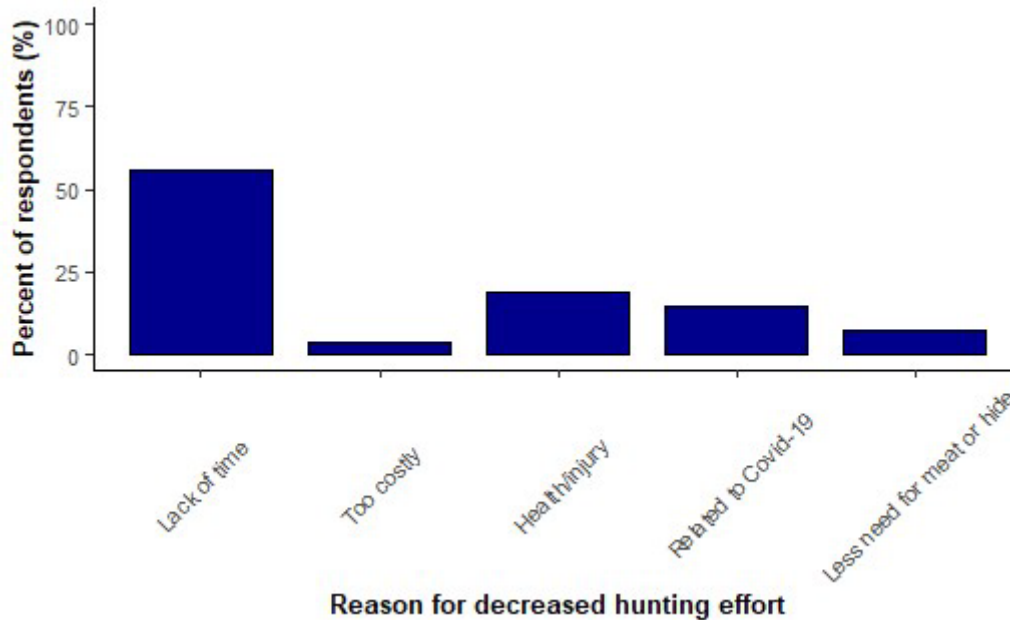


Figure 18. Results from question C10.2 Why did your effort decrease? Sample size = 29. An additional six respondents indicated, 'None of the above'.

For respondents who indicated their hunting effort decreased, the majority (15 of 27; 56%) indicated it was due to a lack of time, though other reasons were cited (Figure 18). No individuals provided other reasons for a decreased hunting effort.

We asked grizzly bear seal holders how many trips they made specifically to hunt grizzly bears in 2020 (Question C11). More than 2/3 of respondents (228 of 329; 69%) made no trips to specifically hunt grizzly bears. The 101 respondents (31%) that did make trips specifically to hunt grizzly bears made an average of 4.1 ± 4.1 trips (range = 1–30; Figure 19) in 2020.

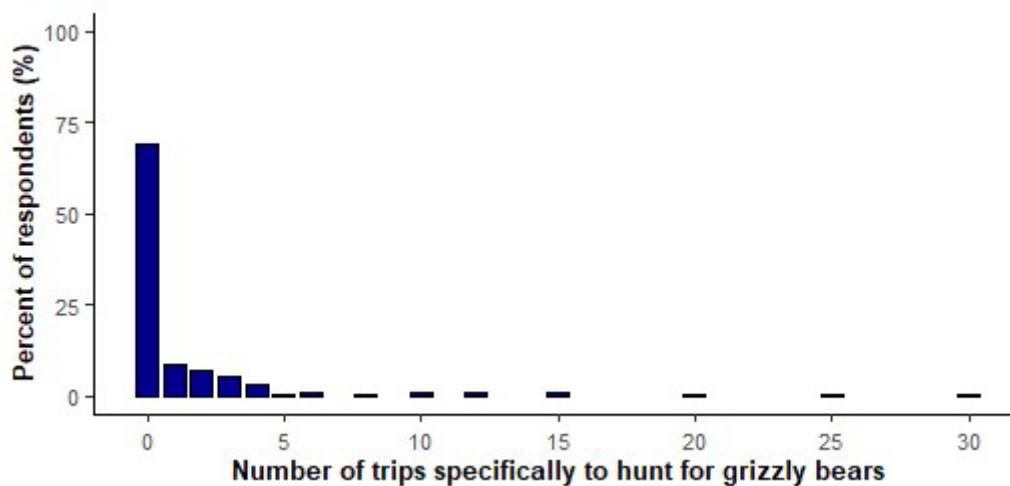


Figure 19. Results from question C11. **How many trips specifically to hunt for grizzly bear did you make during the 2020 season in Yukon?** Sample size = 329; an additional 27 respondents indicated, ‘Don’t know’, an additional 10 respondents indicated, ‘Prefer not to say’. Note: any partial day trips (e.g. an afternoon hunt or carrying a gun when traveling the highway in case the opportunity to take an animal arises) count as a single hunting trip.

Resident hunters were also asked if they hunted bears when they were hunting for other species (Question C12). A little more than 1/3 of respondents (136 of 364; 37%) said they hunted grizzly bears while hunting for other species.

We expected many hunters to opportunistically hunt for grizzly bears when they are hunting for other species (for example, moose) so we examined Question C12 separately for respondents who purchased grizzly bear seals for conflict and those who did not. Most (97 of 136; 71%) who purchased seals to hunt grizzly bears hunted for them while hunting other species, whereas only 33 of 219 respondents (15%) who bought seals for conflict indicated they hunted grizzly bears while hunting for other species.

Respondents that indicated they hunted grizzly bears while hunting other species were asked what other species they hunted while hunting for grizzly bears (Question 12.1). Respondents hunted moose, caribou, sheep (*Ovis dalli*), small game; and to a lesser extent

mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*). Among those in the other category included respondents who noted they hunted grizzly bears while hunting bison (n = 2), black bears (n = 21), and while fishing (n = 3; Figure 20). One respondent who selected others indicated they didn't hunt grizzly bears, but just moose.

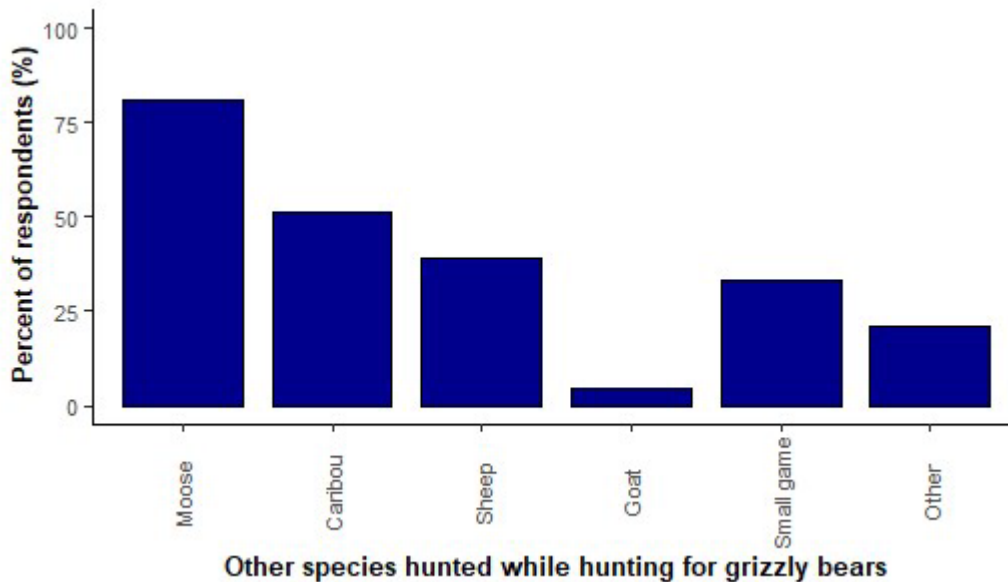


Figure 20. Results from question C12. Did you hunt for grizzly bear while hunting for other species in 2020? Which species, check all that apply? Sample size = 135; 1 other answered, "Prefer not to say".

We asked hunters to provide the approximate number of days in each season (spring and fall) they carried a grizzly bear seal with intent to use it (i.e., hunt grizzly bears) in each game management zone (GMZ; Question C13). Overall, grizzly bear hunting effort was greater in the fall versus spring (Figure 21). In spring, 78 hunters hunted grizzly bear an average of 12.0 ± 25.0 days (range = 1–180). In fall, 121 hunters hunted grizzly bear an average of 14.0 ± 23.6 days (range = 1–214). The largest effort in both spring and fall seasons occurred in GMZ 5, followed by GMZ 7.

Section D: Grizzly bear hunter motivation and experience

We asked respondents to indicate their motivations for purchasing a grizzly bear seal in 2020 (Figure 22; Questions D1 to D13). The most common response was for protection from grizzly bears, followed by enjoying being on the land, and to deal with potential problems with bears in a camp setting (Figure 22).

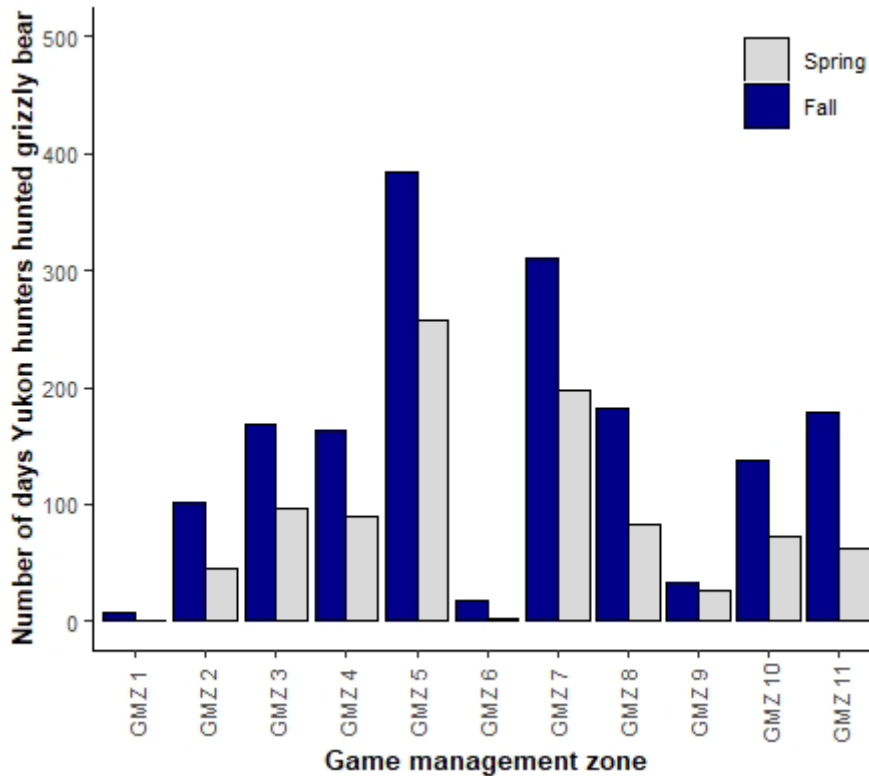


Figure 21. Results from question C13. For each of the following Game Management Zones, indicate the approximate number of days in each season that you hunted and carried a grizzly bear seal with intent to use it. Note: each partial day of hunting was considered an entire day.

We asked respondents who purchased grizzly bear seals how confident they were in telling the difference between male and female bears (Question D14). Most respondents who purchased seals to hunt grizzly bears and those who purchased seals for reasons related to conflict both indicated they were either somewhat or very confident in their ability to tell female and male grizzly bears apart (Figure 23).

To better understand the level of conflict that is occurring between hunters and grizzly bears during the harvest of another animal, we asked hunters if they have ever had a grizzly bear take or attempt to take their meat during other hunts (Question D15). If so, we asked how many times this had occurred (Question D15.1). Nearly 1/4 of respondents (141 of 596; 24%) indicated that this had occurred to them in the past; 14 respondents preferred not to say. Of the 141 respondents that had a grizzly bear take or attempt to take their meat, 63 respondents (45%) had this occur once, 40 respondents (28%) had this occur twice, four respondents (3%) had this occur three times, and 28 respondents (20%) had this occur four times; six respondents preferred not to say.

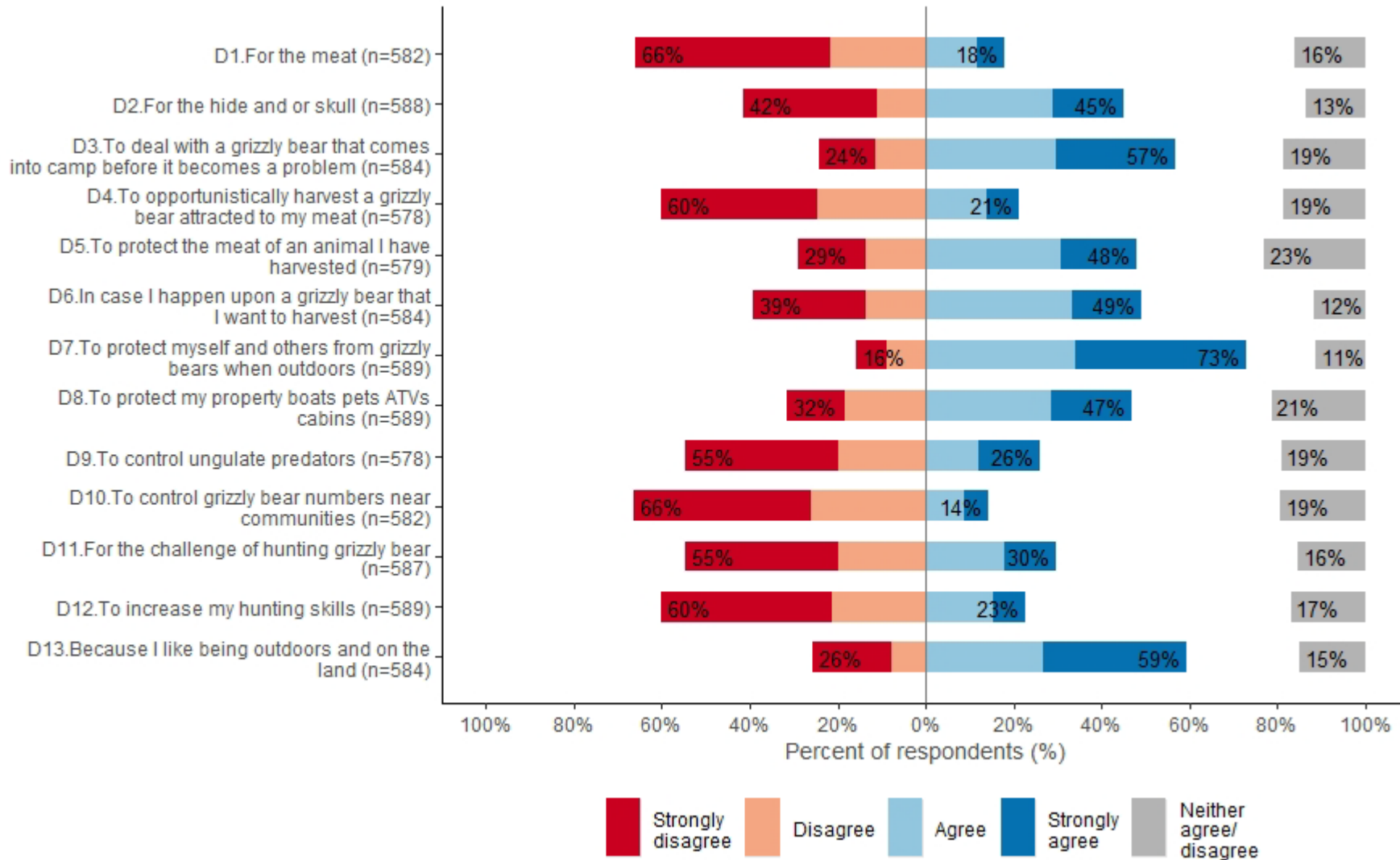


Figure 22. Results from question D1 – D13. Why do you purchase grizzly bear seals? Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with each

of the statements listed on the left. Figure displays percentage of respondents in each level of agreement (*Strongly disagree*, *Disagree*, *Agree*, *Strongly agree*, *Neither agree/disagree*). Per cent of responses that disagree (summed per cent of *Strongly disagree* and *Disagree*) displayed on the left, per cent of responses that agree (summed per cent of *Agree* and *Strongly agree*) displayed in centre, per cent of responses that *Neither agree/disagree* displayed on right. Sample sizes (n) noted after respondent groups.

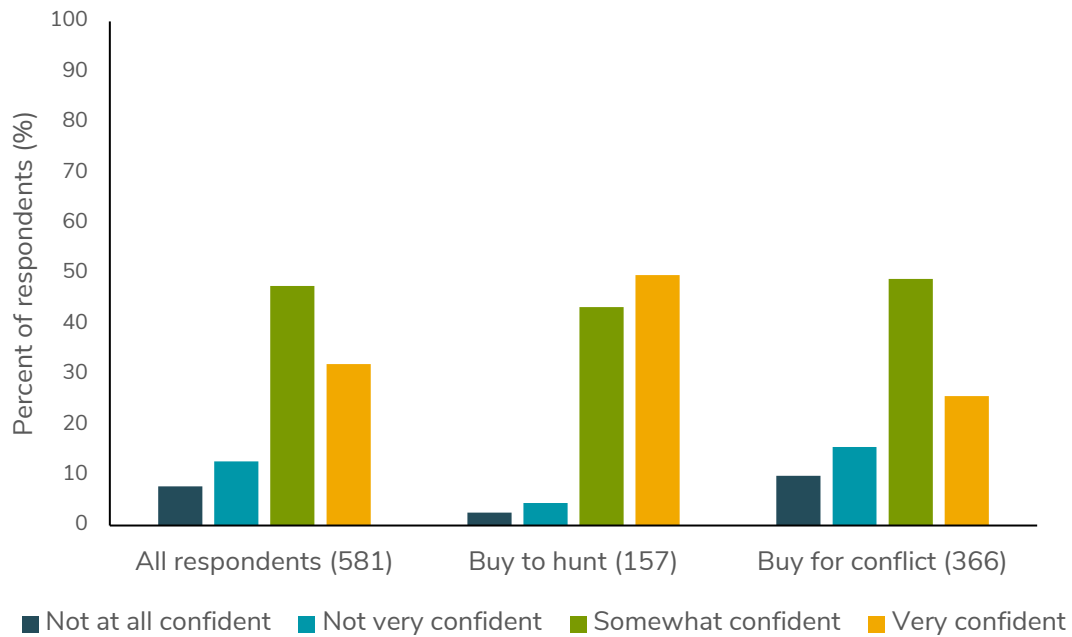


Figure 23. Results from question D14. **How confident are you in your ability to tell female and male grizzly bears apart?** Results displayed for ‘All respondents’ (all respondents who answered the question), ‘Buy to hunt’ (respondents who indicated they did not purchase seals for conflict reasons (answered no to question A6)), and ‘Buy for conflict’ (respondents who indicated they purchased seals in case of a conflict with bears (answered yes to question A6)). Displays percentage of respondents in each level of confidence. Sample sizes (n) noted after respondent groups.

Section E: Human-bear conflict

This section was included to provide insight into what a conflict situation is from a hunter’s perspective. We asked hunters to indicate their level of agreement with a series of statements related to conflict (left, [Figure 24](#); Questions E1 to E7).

Most respondents agreed that a bear that has accessed the meat of a recent harvest, a backcountry interaction with a bold or aggressive bear, a bear threatening personal property and when human safety is at risk, constitute conflict situations. Approximately half of respondents considered it a conflict situation if a bear maintains a presence near a

residence, community or in an area another animal was recently harvested. Nearly half of respondents did not believe that it was a conflict situation if a bear came close to camp and people are not comfortable with the situation (Figure 24).

We asked hunters how often they carry bear spray while hunting (Question E8). Less than half of respondents (295 of 679; 44%) indicated they often or always carried bear spray, 81 respondents (12%) indicated they sometimes carry bear spray, and 303 respondents (45%) indicated they never or rarely carry bear spray while hunting (Figure 25).

Respondents were also asked about other precautions they took to avoid conflict with bears while hunting (Question E9; Figure 26). The majority of respondents indicated they separated the meat from the gut pile (589 of 659; 89%) and left their odour near the meat (445 of 659 68%). Approximately one third of respondents (167 of 659; 35%) indicated they tied surveyor's tape all around the meat, and 154 respondents (23%) indicated Other, and specified other mitigations taken. Other hunter mitigations included: hanging meat, making noise, having a campfire, adding other light sources to the area, hanging other items in trees for noise and visual stimulation (similar to the flagging tape idea), keeping a clean camp, minimizing odours, packing the meat out quickly, covering meat, staying alert and having dogs on site.

Figure 24 (below). Results from question E1 – E7. **What constitutes a bear conflict situation?**

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with each of the statements listed on the left. Figure displays percentage of respondents in each level of agreement (Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly agree, Neither agree/disagree). Per cent of responses that are in disagreement (summed per cent of Strongly disagree, and Disagree) displayed on the left, per cent of responses that are in agreement (summed per cent of Agree and Strongly agree) displayed in center, per cent of responses that Neither agree/disagree displayed on right. Sample sizes (n) noted after respondent groups.

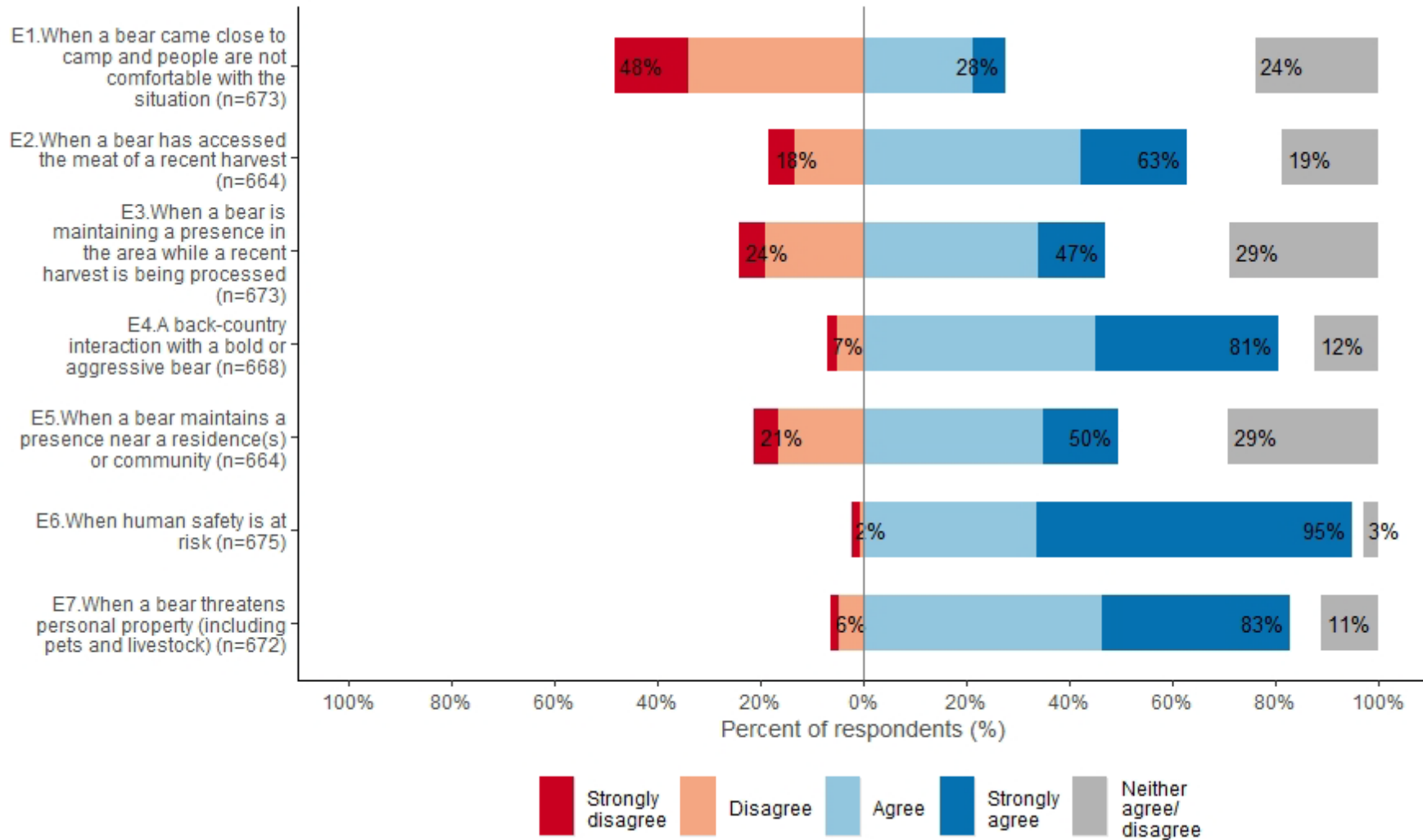




Figure 25. Results from question E8. **How often do you carry bear spray when hunting?** Sample size = 679; 3 respondents indicated, 'Don't know', 18 indicated, 'Prefer not to say'.

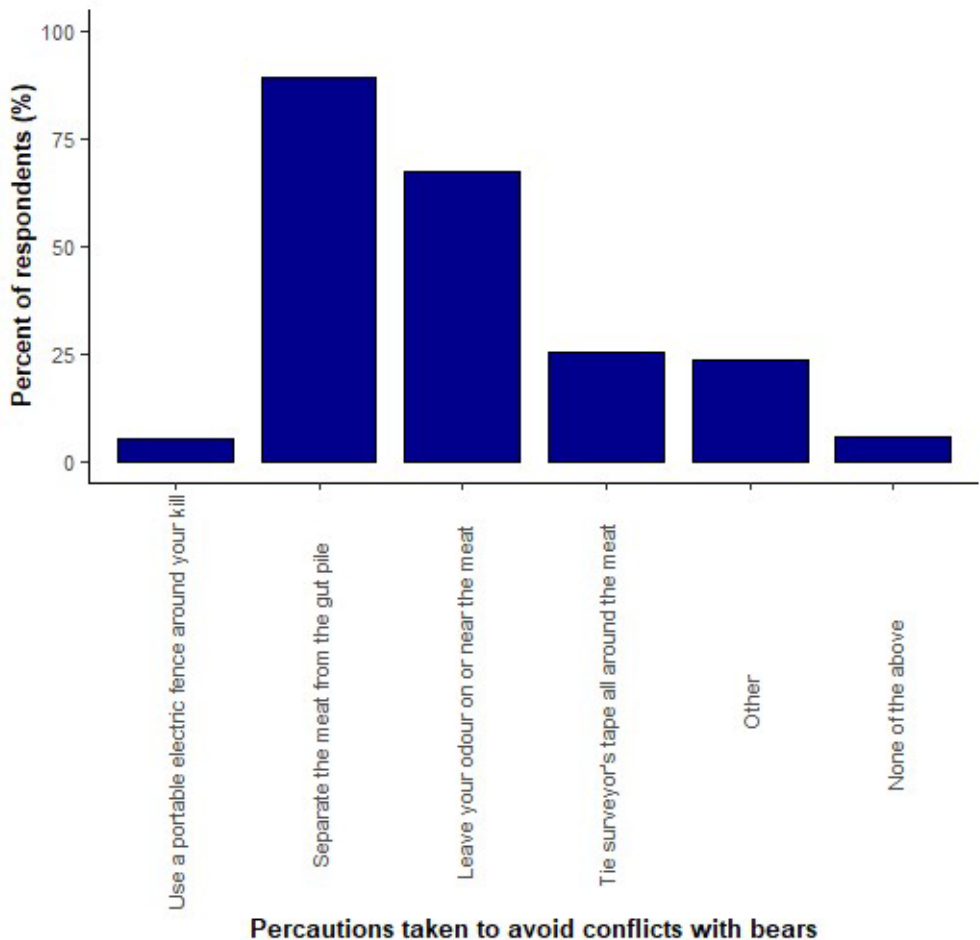


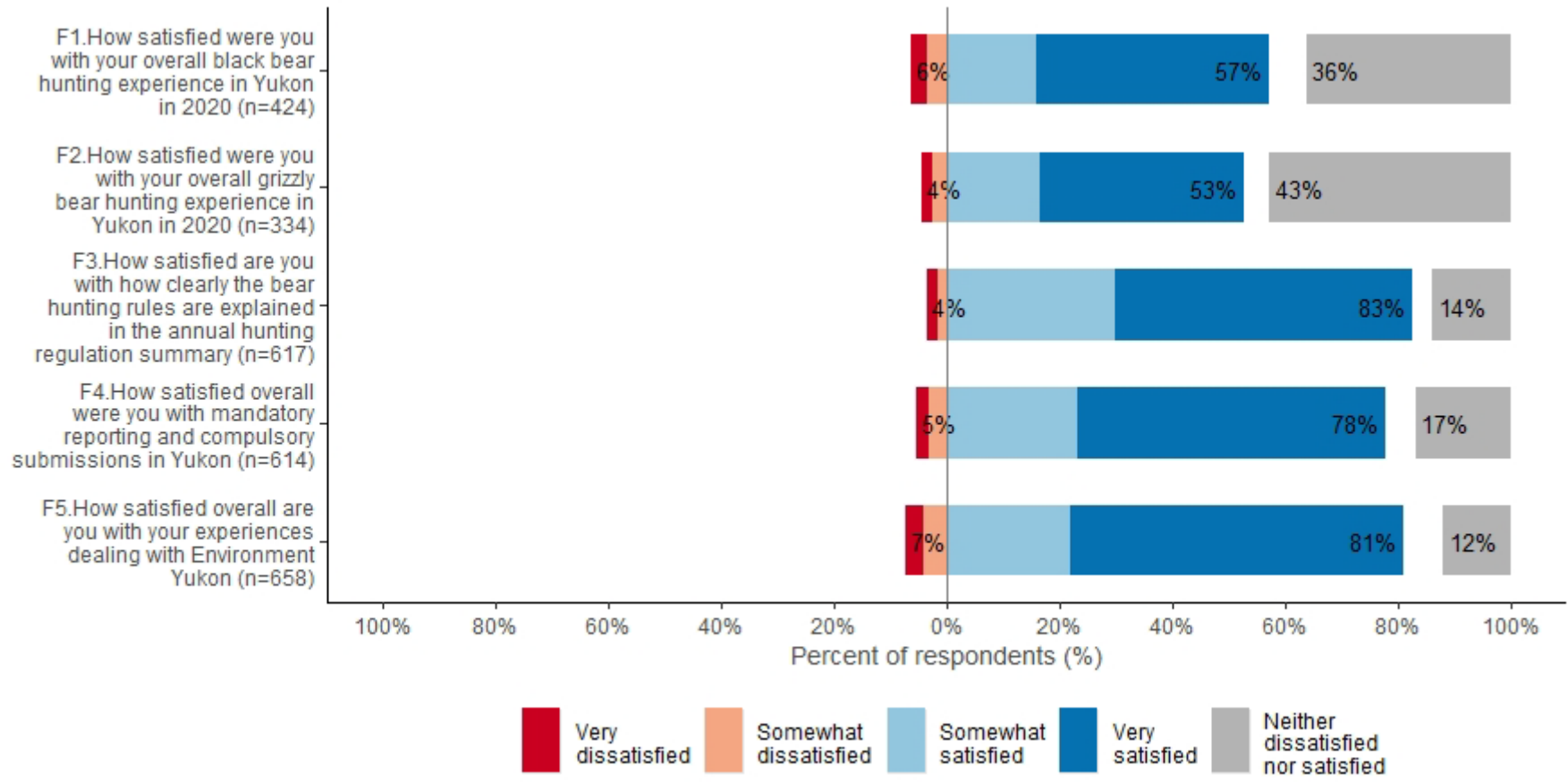
Figure 26. Results from question E9. **Which, if any, of the following precautions do you take to avoid having a conflict situation with a bear while hunting?** Sample size = 659; an additional 9 respondents indicated, 'Don't know', 32 indicated, 'Prefer not to say'.

Section F: Overall Satisfaction

We asked hunters how satisfied they were with their hunting experience (Questions F1 and F2), information available regarding administrative aspects and hunting regulations (Questions F3 and F4) and their overall experience in dealing with the Department of Environment (Question F5; [Figure 27](#)). Most respondents (243 of 424; 57%) indicated they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with their black bear hunting experience in 2020. A similar per cent (176 of 334; 53%) felt the same way about their grizzly bear hunting experience in the Yukon during 2020. More than 1/3 of respondents (154 of 424; 36%) indicated they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with their black bear hunting experience; slightly more respondents 143 of 334 (43%) indicated the same of their grizzly bear hunting experience. It may be that these results represent seal purchasers who are not intending to hunt grizzly bears or black bears.

Most respondents were somewhat or very satisfied with how clearly the bear hunting rules and regulations were explained (510 of 617; 83%), Yukon's mandatory reporting and compulsory submissions (447 of 614 73%), and their overall experience in dealing with the Department of Environment (532 of 658; 81%).

Figure 27 (Below). Results from question F1 –F5. **How satisfied were you with your overall black bear hunting experience in Yukon in 2020?** Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with each of the statements listed on the left. Figure displays percentage of respondents in each level of agreement (*Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly agree, Neither agree/disagree*). Sample sizes (n) noted after statements.



References

- COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). 2012. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Canada. COSEWIC. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). 1999. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) in Canada. COSEWIC. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- Jung TS, Belanger E, Pinard C, Russell K. 2024. Results of a hunter effort survey for caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*). Yukon Fish and Wildlife Branch Technical Report SR-24-00.
- Jung TS, Pinard C, Wall C, Belanger E. 2023. Results of the 2022 sheep (*Ovis dalli*) and goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) hunter effort survey. Yukon Fish and Wildlife Branch Technical Report SR-23-15.
- Jung TS, Pinard C, Westfall RE. 2022. Results of the 2021 bison (*Bison bison*) hunter effort survey. Yukon Fish and Wildlife Branch Technical Report SR-22-02.
- Jung TS, Thomas JP, Thomas F, Chambers R, Clark DA, Dar S, Doran-Myers D, King J, Kuhn TS, McCutchen NA, Osborne R, Schmidt AL, Sicotte M, Van Bussel T, Van Tighem G, Westfall RE. 2018. Results of a public survey about grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) and their management in Yukon, Canada. Yukon Fish and Wildlife Branch Technical Report MR-18-01.
- Smith BL, Osmond-Jones EJ. 1990. Grizzly bear abundance in Yukon Ecoregions. Draft report, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Department of Renewable Resources, Government of Yukon.
- Sawatzky S. 2013. Hunter effort survey 2013: black bear and grizzly bear. Yukon Bureau of Statistics. Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.
- YGBCMPWG (Yukon Grizzly Bear Conservation and Management Plan Working Group). 2019. A conservation plan for grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) in Yukon. Government of Yukon, Department of Environment, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

Appendices

Appendix 1. 2020 Hunter Experience and Effort Survey

Yukon Bureau of Statistics

2020 Hunter Experience and Effort Survey

Black and Grizzly Bear Seal Holders

The 2020 Black & Grizzly Bear Hunter Experience & Effort Survey is being conducted on behalf of the Yukon Department of Environment.

The survey is intended to help us learn more from hunters about their motivations in carrying bear seals and also their experiences in bear hunting and in bear conflict situations. Your participation will help inform and improve our understanding of hunting practices and hunter conflict situations. It will support our work on how best to enhance hunter safety and to avoid bear conflicts and manage unnecessary bear mortalities.

Participation in this survey is voluntary and your responses will be shared with the Department of Environment for their internal use. Individual respondents will not be identified in any reports, and your responses will be combined with others for reporting purposes. Information collected through this survey is protected in accordance with Yukon's Statistics Act.

The survey should only take 10-15 minutes to complete.

1. Have you ever purchased seals for either of the following bear species? Check all that apply.

- Black Bear → [Complete Section A, Section B, Section E & Section F](#)
- Grizzly Bear → [Complete Section C, Section D, Section E & Section F](#)
- None of the above → [END OF SURVEY. Thank you for your participation!](#)

SECTION A: Black bear hunting trips and how you hunt for black bears

<Skip if Q1≠ Black Bear>

A1. How frequently do you hunt black bear in Yukon, including unsuccessful hunts?

- Never
- Rarely (e.g. once every five to ten years)
- Sometimes (e.g. once every three to four years)
- Often (e.g. once every two years)
- Always (annually)

- Prefer not to say

A2. What was the first year you purchased a seal for black bear in Yukon? _____

A3. How many black bears have you harvested in your lifetime in Yukon? _____ → If 0, skip to A5

A4. How many of these were harvested as a result of a conflict situation? _____

A5. Did you obtain a black bear seal in 2020?

- Yes → Go to A6
- No → Go to Section B, skip F1
- Prefer not to say → Go to Section B, skip F1

A6. Some people do not plan to harvest a bear, but buy a seal in case they have a CONFLICT with a bear. Does this describe the reason you obtained a black bear seal in 2020?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

A7. Were you successful at harvesting a black bear in Yukon in 2020?

- Yes → Go to A7.1
- No → IF A6 = "Yes", go to Section B, if A6 = "No", go to A8
- Prefer not to say → IF A6 = "Yes", go to Section B, if A6 = "No", go to A8

A7.1 Was this bear in a conflict situation?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

A8. When black bear hunting in 2020, what type of hunting transportation did you most frequently use?

- Fly-in
- Motorized boat
- ATV or Argo
- Non-motorized boat
- Vehicle - on road

- On foot
- Vehicle - 4x4 off-road
- Horseback
- Other_____
- _____
- Not applicable
- Prefer not to say

A9. Compared to the last time you held a black bear seal, did your 2020 black bear hunting effort:

- Decrease → [Go to A9.2](#)
- Stay the same → [Go to A10](#)
- Increase → [Go to A9.1](#)
- Don't know → [Go to A10](#)
- Prefer not to say → [Go to A10](#)

A9.1 Why did your effort increase? Check all that apply: → [Go to A10](#)

- More available time
- More disposable income
- Available hunting partner(s)
- Better equipped
- Wanted to get outdoors
- Related to Covid-19
- Greater need for meat or hide
- Other: _____
- None of the above
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

A9.2 Why did your effort decrease? Check all that apply:

- Lack of time
- Too costly
- Health/injury
- Regulations
- Not enough black bears
- Related to Covid-19
- Less need for meat or hide
- Other: _____
- None of the above
- Don't know

- Prefer not to say

A10. How many trips specifically to hunt for black bear did you make during the 2020 season in Yukon? _____

A11. Did you hunt for black bear while hunting for other species in 2020?

- Yes → [Go to A11.1](#)
- No → [Go to A12](#)
- Not applicable → [Go to A12](#)
- Prefer not to say → [Go to A12](#)

A11.1 Which species? Check all that apply:

- Moose
- Caribou
- Sheep
- Goat
- Small Game
- Other: _____
- Prefer not to say

A12. For each of the following Game Management Zones, indicate the approximate number of days in each season that you hunted and carried a black bear seal with intent to use it. Please consider each partial day of hunting as one whole day, and any partial day trips (e.g. an afternoon hunt or carrying a gun when traveling the highway in case the opportunity to take an animal arises) as a single hunting trip.

For more information about Game Management Subzones, go to the website at:

<https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-overview-map-game-management-subzones.pdf>

	Spring Season	Fall Season
Zone	Number of Days Hunted	
GMZ 1		
GMZ 2		
GMZ 3		
GMZ 4		
GMZ 5		
GMZ 6		
GMZ 7		

GMZ 8

GMZ 9

GMZ 10

GMZ 11

SECTION B: Understanding hunter motivation and experience in carrying black bear seals

<Skip if Q1≠ Black Bear>

This next part of the survey has questions that are intended to help us learn from hunters about why they carry a black bear seal or seals and their experiences while bear hunting or while participating in other activities on the land.

Why do you purchase black bear seals? Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.

I purchase black bear seals:

B1. For the meat

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B2. For the hide and/or skull

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B3. To deal with a black bear that comes into camp before it becomes problem

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B4. To opportunistically harvest a bear attracted to my meat

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B5. To protect the meat of an animal I have harvested

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B6. In case I happen upon a black bear that I want to harvest

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B7. To protect myself and others from black bears when outdoors

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree

- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B8. To protect my property (boats, pets, ATVs, cabins)

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B9. To control ungulate predators

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B10. To control black bear numbers near communities

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B11. For the challenge of hunting black bear

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B12. To increase my hunting skills

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B13. Because I like being outdoors and on the land

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B14. How confident are you in your ability to tell female and male black bears apart?

- Not at all confident
- Not very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Very confident
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

B15. Have you ever had black bear take or attempt to take your harvested meat while you were on the land?

- Yes → [Go to B15.1](#)
- No → [Go to Section C](#)
- Prefer not to say → [Go to Section C](#)

B15.1 If yes, how many times has a black bear taken or attempted to take your meat?

- Once
- Twice
- Three times
- More than three times

- Prefer not to say

SECTION C: Grizzly bear hunting trips and how you hunt for grizzly bear

<Skip if Q1≠ Grizzly Bear>

C1. Which of the follow statements best represents your interest in harvesting grizzly bears?

- I am interested in harvesting a grizzly bear once in my lifetime
- I am interested in occasionally harvesting a grizzly bear
- I am interested in harvesting a grizzly bear whenever I am eligible to do so
- I am interested in harvesting a grizzly bear if I have to in a conflict situation
- Other (please specify): _____
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

C2. What was the first year you purchased a seal for grizzly bear in Yukon? _____

C3. How many grizzly bears have you harvested in your lifetime in Yukon? _____ → If 0, skip to C5

C4. How many of these where harvested as a result of a conflict situation? _____

C5. Where you *eligible for a* grizzly bear seal in 2020?

- Yes → Go to C5.1
- No → Go to C6, skip F2
- Prefer not to say → Go to Section D, skip F2

C5.1 Did you obtain a grizzly bear seal in 2020?

- Yes → Go to C7
- No → Go to Section D, skip F2
- Prefer not to say → Go to Section D, skip F2

C6. Some people do not plan to harvest a bear, but buy a seal in case they have a CONFLICT with a bear. If you *had been eligible* to obtain a grizzly bear seal in 2020, would you obtain a seal for this purpose?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

- Prefer not to say

C7. Some people do not plan to harvest a bear, but buy a seal in case they have a CONFLICT with a bear. Does this describe the reason you obtained a grizzly bear seal(s) in 2020?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

C8. Were you successful at harvesting a grizzly bear in Yukon in 2020?

- Yes → [Go to C8.1](#)
- No → [Go to C9](#)
- Prefer not to say → [Go to C9](#)

C8.1 Was this bear in a conflict situation?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

C9. When grizzly bear hunting in 2020, what type of hunting transportation did you most frequently use?

- Fly-in
- Motorized boat
- ATV or Argo
- Non-motorized boat
- Vehicle - on road
- On foot
- Vehicle - 4x4 off-road
- Horseback
- Other _____
- Not applicable
- Prefer not to say

C10. Compared to the last time you held a grizzly bear seal, did your 2020 grizzly bear hunting effort:

- Decrease → [Go to C10.2](#)
- Stay the same → [Go to C11](#)
- Increase → [Go to C10.1](#)

- Not applicable → [Go to C11](#)
- Don't know → [Go to C11](#)
- Prefer not to say → [Go to C11](#)

C10.1 Why did your effort increase? Check all that apply: → [Go to C11](#)

- More available time
- More disposable income
- Available hunting partner(s)
- Better equipped
- Wanted to get outdoors
- Related to Covid-19
- Greater need for meat or hide
- Other: _____
- None of the above
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

C10.2 Why did your effort decrease? Check all that apply:

- Lack of time
- Too costly
- Health/injury
- Regulations
- Not enough black bears
- Related to Covid-19
- Less need for meat or hide
- Other: _____
- None of the above
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

C11. How many trips specifically to hunt for grizzly bear did you make during the 2020 season in Yukon? _____

C12. Did you hunt for grizzly bear while hunting for other species in 2020?

- Yes → [Go to C12.1](#)
- No → [Go to C13](#)
- Not applicable → [Go to C13](#)
- Prefer not to say → [Go to C13](#)

C12.1 Which species? Check all that apply:

- Moose
- Caribou
- Sheep
- Goat
- Small Game
- Other: _____
- Prefer not to say

C13. For each of the following Game Management Zones, indicate the approximate number of days in each season that you hunted and carried a grizzly bear seal with intent to use it *Please consider each partial day of hunting as one whole day, and any partial day trips (e.g. an afternoon hunt or carrying a gun when traveling the highway in case the opportunity to take an animal arises) as a single hunting trip.*

For more information about Game Management Subzones, go to the website at:

<https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-overview-map-game-management-subzones.pdf>

	Spring Season	Fall Season
Zone	Number of Days Hunted	
GMZ 1		
GMZ 2		
GMZ 3		
GMZ 4		
GMZ 5		
GMZ 6		
GMZ 7		
GMZ 8		
GMZ 9		
GMZ 10		
GMZ 11		

SECTION D: Understanding hunter motivation and experience in carrying a grizzly bear seal

<Skip if Q1≠ Grizzly Bear>

This next part of the survey has questions that are intended to help us learn from hunters about why they carry a grizzly bear seal or seals and their experiences while bear hunting or while participating in other activities on the land.

Why do you purchase grizzly bear seals? Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.

I purchase grizzly bear seals:

D1. For the meat

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D2. For the hide and/or skull

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D3. To deal with a grizzly bear that comes into camp before it becomes problem

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D4. To opportunistically harvest a grizzly bear attracted to my meat

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D5. To protect the meat of an animal I have harvested

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D6. In case I happen upon a grizzly bear that I want to harvest

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D7. To protect myself and others from grizzly bears when outdoors

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D8. To protect my property (boats, pets, ATVs, cabins)

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D9. To control ungulate predators

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D10. To control grizzly bear numbers near communities

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D11. For the challenge of hunting grizzly bear

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D12. To increase my hunting skills

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D13. Because I like being outdoors and on the land

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D14. How confident are you in your ability to tell female and male grizzly bears apart?

- Not at all confident
- Not very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Very confident
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

D15. Have you ever had grizzly bear take or attempt to take your harvested meat while you were on the land?

- Yes → [Go to D15.1](#)
- No → [Go to Section E](#)
- Prefer not to say → [Go to Section E](#)

D15.1 If yes, how many times has a grizzly bear taken or attempted to take your meat?

- Once
- Twice
- Three times
- More than three times
- Prefer not to say

SECTION E: Human-bear conflict

This next part of the survey has questions that are intended to help us understand, from a hunter's perspective, what a conflict situation is.

What constitutes a bear conflict situation? Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.

A bear conflict situation is:

E1. When a bear came close to camp and people are not comfortable with the situation.

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

E2. When a bear has accessed the meat of a recent harvest.

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

E3. When a bear is maintaining a presence in the area while a recent harvest is being processed.

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

E4. A back-country interaction with a bold or aggressive bear.

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

E5. When a bear maintains a presence near a residence(s) or community.

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

E6. When human safety is at risk.

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

E7. When a bear threatens personal property (including pets and livestock).

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

E8. How often do you carry bear spray when hunting?

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

E9. Which, if any, of the following precautions you take to avoid having a conflict situation with a bear while hunting?

- Use a portable electric fence around your kill while you field dress or if you have to leave the animal unattended
- Separate the meat from the gut pile
- Leave your odour on or near the meat
- Tie surveyor's tape all around the meat
- Other _____
- None of the above
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

SECTION F: Overall Satisfaction

F1. <Skip if A5 = I did not purchase a black bear seal in 2020> How satisfied were you with your overall black bear hunting experience in Yukon in 2020?

- Very dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

F2. <Skip if C5.1 = "Yes"> How satisfied were you with your overall grizzly bear hunting experience in Yukon in 2020?

- Very dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

F3. How satisfied are you with how clearly the bear hunting rules are explained in the annual hunting regulation summary?

- Very dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

F4. How satisfied overall were you with mandatory reporting and compulsory submissions in Yukon?

- Very dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

F5. How satisfied overall are you with your experiences dealing with Environment Yukon?

- Very dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

F6. Please provide any comments you have regarding your satisfaction with hunting rules for bears, compulsory submissions and dealing with the Department of Environment Staff.

F7. Hunter knowledge is a valuable source of information, and we are interested to know hunters' observations regarding the areas they hunt in. You, as a hunter and land user, have valuable experience developed from your time while hunting and recreating on the land.

The Department of Environment would like to follow up directly with hunters to better understand local knowledge and information on bears in Yukon. Are you interested in participating in a brief follow-up interview to share your experience?

- Yes
- No

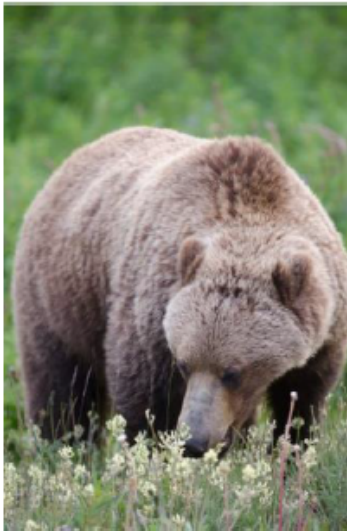
Finally, in the event that you are selected to participate in a future survey with the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, would you prefer to have the survey sent to you via email, rather than be contacted via telephone?

Please note: your email address will be kept strictly confidential and will not be shared with any other Government of Yukon department nor any external agency. You will be contacted solely in the event that you are selected for a future survey with Yukon Bureau of Statistics and not for any other purpose.

- o Email (please specify): _____
- o Phone (please specify): _____

This concludes the Black & Grizzly Bear Hunter Experience & Effort Survey. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey, your input is greatly appreciated.

Appendix 2. Information sheet



We want to hear from you **Hunter effort and experience survey:** **black and grizzly bear seal holders**

What?

We want to hear about your experience with bear hunting and bear conflict situations.

Why?

Your feedback will help us better understand bear hunting practices and hunter conflict situations.

This information will help us improve hunter safety, avoid bear conflicts and manage unnecessary bear mortalities.

If you've taken a hunter effort survey before, this one will look different

This survey includes more sections than usual.

We want to know about your experience bear hunting – how many days you spent hunting, how much effort was required, how you accessed the hunt area, etc.

This year, we also want to hear more about why you carry a black or grizzly bear seal:

- For the meat?
- For the hide and/or skull?
- To have in case of conflict with a bear?
- To harvest opportunistically?

In addition to learning about bear hunter effort, we want to better understand why hunters purchase and use their bear seals.

Why was I selected?

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics is surveying a representative sample of the 2,940 people who purchased a bear seal in 2020.

Why aren't all seal holders being surveyed?

It is not financially or logistically feasible to survey everyone who purchased a bear seal in 2020. We are surveying a representative sample of seal holders, which provides information on hunting practices across a broad range of Yukon hunters and Yukon communities. This is standard practice for surveys.

