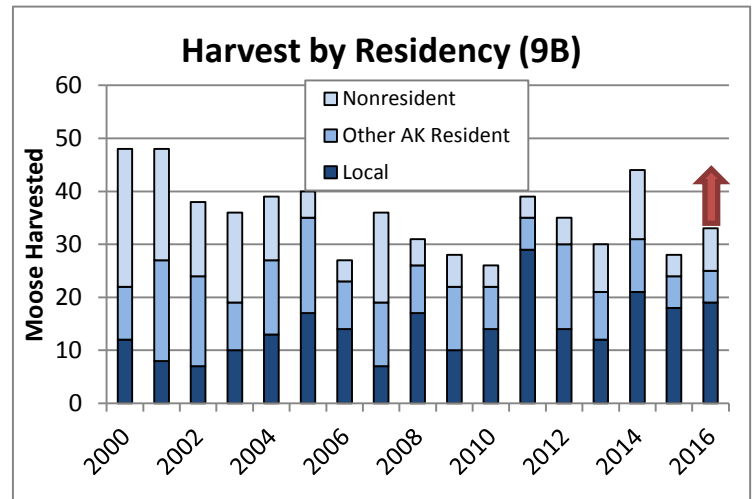


Moose update, Unit 9B and 9C.

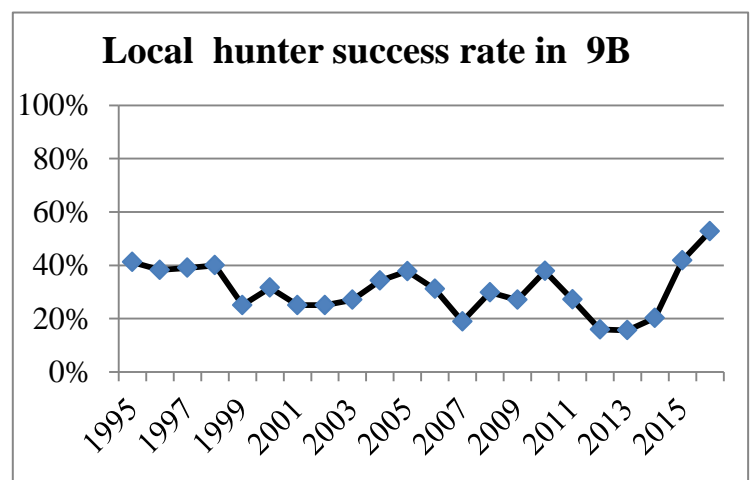
Dave Crowley, King Salmon Area Biologist, ADF&G Feb 2017

- RM272 (Units 9B and 9C) for 2016 has a reported harvest of 71 bulls with about 90 reports still expected. A final harvest of 71 moose would be the highest since 2007.

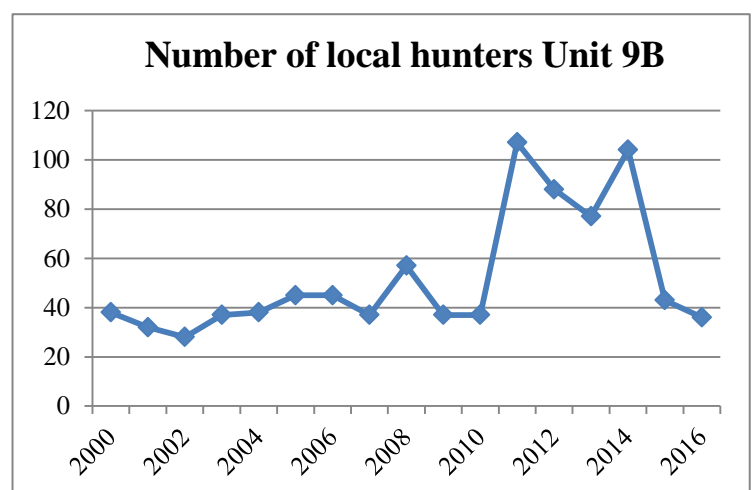
- Reported moose harvest by local hunters in Unit 9B continues at a higher level now than in the early 2000's, at a stable level near 20.
- Reports still coming in for 2016 harvest.
- Nonlocal and nonresident harvest continue at low level in Unit 9B.
- High harvest in 2011 occurred because of excellent snow cover.
- A population estimate of 1,160 moose in 2012 indicated that reported harvest is only about 3% of the population, with many more bulls available for harvest.



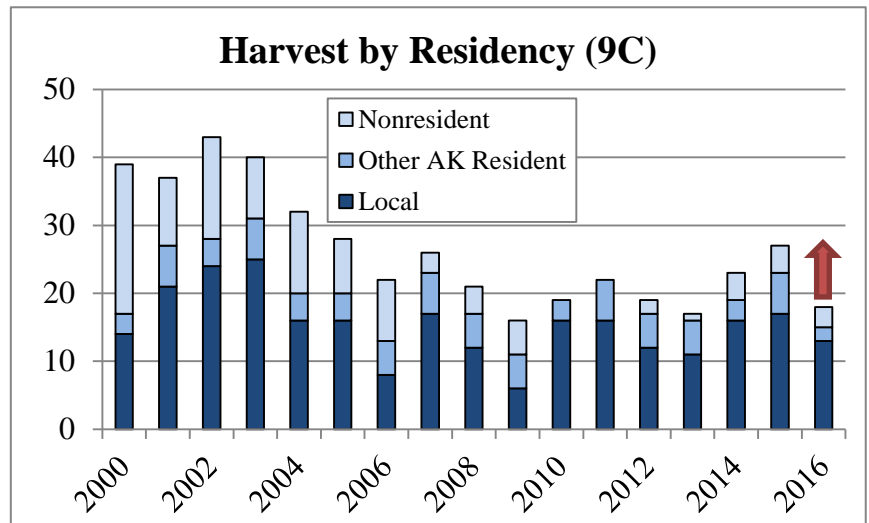
- Hunter success rate is increasing in Unit 9B, and is higher now than the late 1990's....see next graph



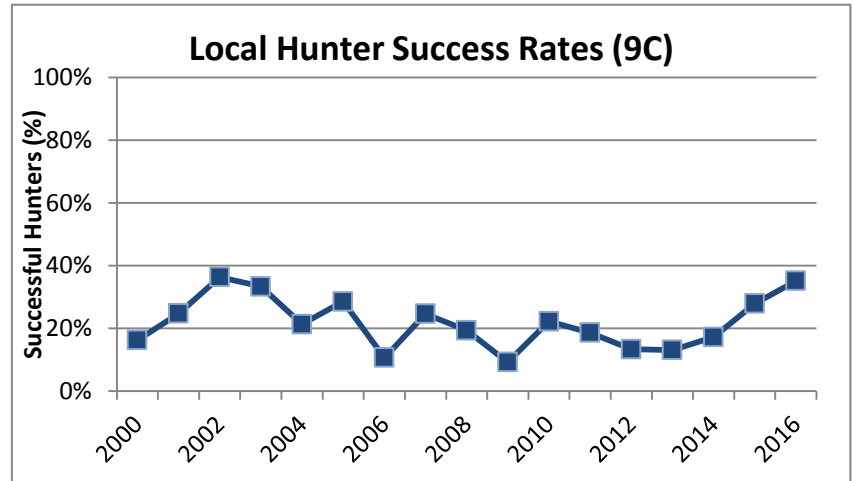
- In part because the number of local hunters (successful and unsuccessful) has decreased since spikes in 2011 and 2014.



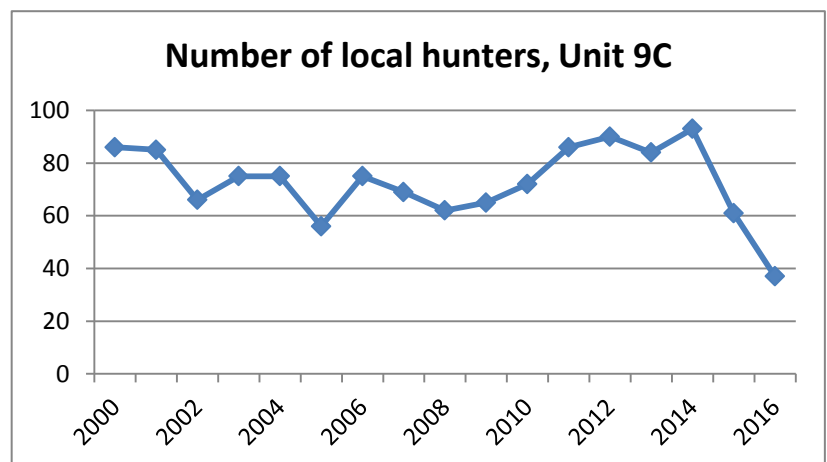
- Reports still coming in for 2016 harvest in Unit 9C.
- Local harvest in 9C has been about 75 – 100% of total harvest since 2010.
- In a December composition count, we observed a sample of 340 moose in Unit 9C, including Katmai NP.
- A harvest of 20 moose is only 6% of our observed sample. Actual population size is unknown but could be approximately 500 – 600 moose.



- Local hunter success rate is increasing in Unit 9C



- Number of local hunters registered for the hunt has declined recently.



Results of moose composition survey, Units 9B and 9C Dec. 2016.

- Sample size: 374 moose
- Bull:cow ratio: 47 bulls:100 cows
- Calf:cow ratio 26 calves:100 cows.
- Yearling bulls: 27% of bulls

Moose research project beginning April 2017

- Capture cows and monitor calf survival, Units 9B and 9C
- Conduct twinning rate surveys. Twinning rate is index of nutrition condition and habitat quality.
- Determine seasonal movements of moose, especially with respect to the park.

Two Potential Board of Game Proposals from ADFG

- **Reduce season and bag limit for Alaska hare (not snowshoe hare)**
 - Units 9A, 9B, 9D and 9E: Sept 1 – Dec 30; 1 per day
 - Unit 9C: no open season
 - Currently: **No closed season, no bag limit.**
 - Effect
 - Reduce season by 4 months, introduce bag limit of 1
 - Issues
 - Alaska hares were once abundant in Unit 9, now rare to absent
 - King Salmon area once had hundreds along stream corridors
 - Now there are probably 4 - 5.
-
- **Reduce season and bag limit for ptarmigan**
 - Unit 9: Aug 10 – Mar 31; 10 per day. 20 in possession.
 - Currently: **Aug 10 – Apr 30; 20 per day, 40 in possession**
 - Effect:
 - Reduce season by 1 month, reduce bag and possession limit by half.
 - Close hunting in April during spring breeding activity
 - Issues
 - Ptarmigan have declined severely since RY2014 in Unit 9
 - Range-wide decline all the way to Cold Bay
 - Public is concerned
 - Hunting is additive mortality in populated areas
 - Hunting likely additive in April.