

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

SB56

Bill as Introduced

SB 56-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2013 SESSION

13-0862

10/01

SENATE BILL

56-FN

AN ACT

prohibiting the taking of bear from baited areas.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Forrester, Dist 2; Rep. Kidder, Merr 5

COMMITTEE:

Energy and Natural Resources

ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits the practice of baiting for the taking of bear, and also prohibits feeding bear with foods known to be attractive to bear. The bill allows the executive director of fish and game to issue special permits using baiting.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Thirteen

AN ACT prohibiting the taking of bear from baited areas.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Fish and Game; Baiting Bear Prohibited. Amend RSA 207:3-d, I to read as follows:

2 I. The executive director shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the opening
3 and closing of the season for the practice of baiting for coyote, furbearing animals, game birds, or
4 game animals with the exception of gray squirrel; **provided, that no person shall be permitted to**
5 **engage in the act of baiting for bear, as defined in RSA 208:22-a, I, or shall knowingly take**
6 **bear from a baited area.**

7 2 Wild Black Bear. Amend RSA 208:22, III-V to read as follows:

8 III. Dogs shall not be trained or used for taking bear from baited areas [~~after a date as~~
9 ~~determined by the executive director in a rule adopted pursuant to RSA 541-A~~].

10 IV. [Repealed.]

11 V. Wild black bear may be taken by the aid and use of dogs, as permitted pursuant to
12 RSA 208:22, I; by firearms; or by bow and arrow of at least 40 pound pull. No person shall take bear
13 by the aid or use of a jack or artificial light, trap, snare, or set gun or .22 or smaller caliber rimfire
14 firearm, [~~unless otherwise provided in this section~~] **or by baiting as provided in RSA 208:22-a, I.**

15 3 New Section; Baiting Bear Prohibited. Amend RSA 208 by inserting after section 22 the
16 following new section:

17 208:22-a Baiting Bear Prohibited.

18 I. No person shall place bait for the taking of bear, or shall knowingly take bear from a
19 baited area; provided that the executive director may grant a special permit for scientific purposes,
20 animal damage control, or for any other purpose, allowing such baiting, at the discretion of the
21 executive director. For purposes of this paragraph, "baiting" means placing salt, fruit, nuts, grain, or
22 other foods known to be attractive to bear. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit the taking of
23 bear from an observation stand or blind overlooking standing crops, foods that have been left as a
24 result of normal agricultural operations, or as a result of a natural occurrence.

25 II. No person shall feed bear by placing salt, fruit, nuts, grain, or other foods known to be
26 attractive to bear during any open season for the taking of bear. This paragraph shall not prohibit
27 normal agricultural and forest practices.

28 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

LBAO
13-0862
01/22/13

SB 56-FN - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT prohibiting the taking of bear from baited areas.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Due to time constraints, the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant is unable to provide a fiscal note for this bill, as introduced, at this time. When completed, the fiscal note will be forwarded to the Senate Clerk's Office.

Committee Minutes

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Senator Russell Prescott Chairman
 Senator Bob Odell V Chairman
 Senator Jeb Bradley
 Senator Martha Fuller Clark
 Senator Jeff Woodburn

For Use by Senate Clerk's Office ONLY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	Docket
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calendar
Proof: <input type="checkbox"/>	Calendar <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Status

Date: January 31, 2013

HEARINGS

Wednesday

2/6/2013

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LOB 101

9:00 AM

(Name of Committee)

(Place)

(Time)

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

9:00 AM	SB101	relative to collocation and modification of personal wireless services facilities.
9:15 AM	SB110	directing the department of environmental services to adopt rules relative to its 2009 numeric nutrient criteria for the Great Bay Estuary.
9:30 AM	SB133-FN	adopting the interstate wildlife violators compact.
9:45 AM	SB56-FN	prohibiting the taking of bear from baited areas.

Sponsors:

SB101

Sen. Jeb Bradley
 Sen. David Boutin
 Rep. Robert Introne

Sen. Bob Odell
 Rep. Timothy Copeland

Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
 Rep. Jacqueline Cali-Pitts

Sen. Jeff Woodburn
 Rep. James Devine

SB110

Sen. David Watters
 Rep. Steven Beaudoin

Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
 Rep. Dorothea Hooper

Sen. Sam Cataldo

Rep. Rose Marie Rogers

SB133-FN

Sen. Jeff Woodburn

SB56-FN

Sen. Jeanie Forrester

Rep. David Kidder

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Chris Cote, Legislative Aide

SB 56 – prohibiting the taking of bear from baited areas.

Hearing Date: 2.6.13

Time Opened: 10:00am

Time Closed: 10:30am

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Bradley, Fuller Clark, Odell, Prescott, and Woodburn

Members of the Committee Absent: No one

Bill Analysis: This bill prohibits the practice of baiting for the taking of bear, and also prohibits feeding bear with foods known to be attractive to bear. The bill allows the executive director of fish and game to issue special permits using baiting.

Sponsors: Sen. Forrester, Dist 2; Rep. Kidder, Merr 5

Who supports the bill: Sheridan Brown

Who opposes the bill: William Carney, Scott Jackson NHOLC, Henry Fitts, Thomas Hopkins, Jason Hopkins, Buck Malloy Pointers F&G, Greg Malloy, P. Lauser, Mike Mercier, Major Kevin Jordan NH Fish and Game, Mark Ellingwood NH Fish and Game, Mitchel Filson Cast and Blast Guide Service, Rick Olson NHWF, Karen Courchesne, Eric Ranfos, Tiffany Ranfos, Anton Kaska NHWF, Dr. Richard Zang NHWF, Glen W. DuBuque, Jason Stock NH Timberland Owners Association, Ken Duane, William Carnsy, Dan Dockham NH Bear Hunters Association, Patrick Pickard, David Pool NH Guide Association, Don Dubois, Buck Mercier,

Summary of testimony presented in support:

- The Prime sponsor, Senator Forrester introduced her bill, explained that it was introduced on behalf of constituent, and requested that due to several challenging factors, she would like the bill to be found ITL.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

- Several people spoke briefly in opposition saying simply: "Kill the bill," William Carney, Scott Jackson, Henry Fitz,

- Rick Olsen from NHWF against the bill but supports conservation efforts,
- Senator Woodburn then asked Rick Olsen about baiting on private versus public property, and the regulations associated therein, to which Rick Olsen explained private property always requires a baiting permit, with a specific process to keep bait and must post the bait and mark it on a map,
- Senator Odell asked what is used for bait and the answer given was that it varies but typically anything sweet
- Richard Zeng, board of directors for wildlife federation, hunter educator, stated that bait hunting often more ethical to hunt from bait, better shot placement, more time to select target, allows you discriminate between sows or bulls, greater discretion is provided
- Dan Dockem, NH Bear hunters, group voted unanimously to oppose the bill
- Mark Ellingwood, Fish and Game, Bears are highly valued species, baiting is important, we need to control the population through baiting, and commission supports killing the bill,
- Senator Bradley asked how much baiting occurs? A: from NHWF 50% of annual hunt is done with baiting, try to meet harvest objectives, traditional hunting for bears is low response and this method is efficient. Minimizes any conflicts in urban and rural areas, 100 yards from trail, road, or occupied structure
- Senator Woodburn asked do nuisance bears get killed at these bait sites, A: from NH Fish and Game, baiting allows tracking of nuisance bears and control of them, bears are opportunists, little relationship between bear baiting and nuisance bears.

Fiscal Note:

Less than \$10,000 per year

Future Action:

Executive Session was a vote of 4-0 ITL, Prescott will take the bill to the floor

CSC

Date hearing report completed: 2.11.13

[file: SB0056 report]

Speakers

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee: Sign-In Sheet

Date: 2.6.13
 Dated areas.

Time: 9:45am Public Hearing on prohibiting the taking of bear from

Type Bill No. Here SB56-FN

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
✓ William F. CARNEY	SELF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
✓ SCOTT JACKSON	New Hampshire OUTDOOR Learning CTR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
✓ HENRY FITTS	SELF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Hopkins	SELF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JASON HOPKINS	Self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buck Meloy	painters f&G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greg Meloy	Self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P. LAURASER	Self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MIKE MERCISE	SELF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MAJOR KEVIN JORDAN	NH FISH+GAME	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Ellingwood	NH F+G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mitchel Filson	Cast and Out Guide Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
✓ RICK OLSON	NHWF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KAREN COURCHESSE	Self/	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eric Rantos	Self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tiffany Rantos	Self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Anton Kasika	NHWF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
✓ R. Richard A. Zang	NHWF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GLEN W. DUBUQUE	self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Testimony

526 Clinton Street
Bow, New Hampshire 03304

Senate Bill 56 FN

Prohibit the Taking of Bear from Baited Areas

February 6, 2013

Good morning members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. For the record my name is William F. Carney, I reside in the Town of Bow, I am a former Fish and Game Commissioner, an active Freelance Outdoor Writer and Columnist and for 10 years I was the legislative agent for the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation.

I appear in front of your Committee today in opposition to Senate Bill 56 -FN.

Normally, as a life long fair chase sportsman I would not be testifying in opposition to any wildlife baiting bill. The wildlife management of black bear in New Hampshire is a very time consuming scientifically managed program and especially difficult to do and with out the option of having bear baiting as a management tool it becomes almost impossible. No matter what state in the country you are trying to manage black bear in they are a very intelligent and active wildlife resource that are extremely difficult to control. This is an animal that can reach weights of up to 700 Lbs. as the one recently killed in Michigan this past November. (see hand out) At best it is the management of a large predator that is found in and has taken up residence in all 11 New Hampshire counties from the urban south to the rural north. The Black Bear is New Hampshire's largest predator that can grow to several hundred pounds and must be managed as such.

(2)

They are not the cute 15 Lb. cubs pictured on the front page of the Union Leader that the sows send scurrying up a tree to escape the bark of an urban dog or the taunt of people trying to take pictures. Black Bears are frequent and destructive visitor to many residential back yards in New Hampshire.

As the "crow flies" I live about 3 miles from this hearing room and I frequently encounter many bears in my back yard each year. As soon as the warming days of spring arrives the local newspapers and T.V. stations will be reporting again the many bear human interactions. Thank God, in New Hampshire none have ended in a human bear interaction tragedy that has caused a loss of human life as has happened in other states.

My bear loss is usually several bird feeders when the bears start to get hungry and decide to end their winter hibernation and not wait until the weatherman announces winter is over and it is time to take in the bird feeders.

The New Hampshire bear, is a huge eating machine and as the states largest predator they can and do raise havoc on New Hampshire's yearly moose calf and fawn crop each spring and have been well known to take sheep, piglets and calves to end their winter fast as an opportunity presents its self.

I have witnessed the bear crop damage suffered by local farmers especially to their yearly corn crops. A couple of local farmers less than 4 miles from this building both have had crop damage in excess of \$1,000 of dollars almost yearly. They are always very eager to issue bear baiting permission slips for their corn fields for bear hunting each fall. Without the use of the Fish and Game bear baiting permits the yearly crop damage for these local

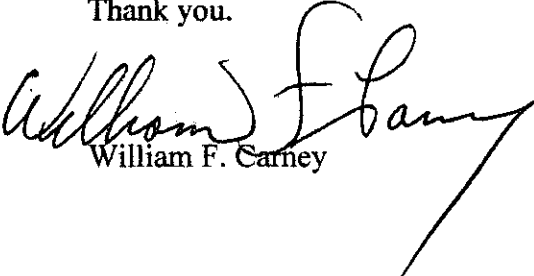
(3)

farmers would sky rocket. Also with out the continuance of this legislatively allowed bear baiting law by this Committee the wildlife management and harvest program that allows Fish and Game to scientifically manage these animals would be taken away with the passage of Senate Bill 56-FN.

There are already strict harvest laws in place to prevent an overharvest of the bears in New Hampshire.

You will hear or already have heard from others who will testify before you today, testifying that bear baiting should be stopped and outlawed. They will tell you how gentle and friendly our New Hampshire bears can be. Black Bears are wild creatures. They should not be feed or attempted to be made friends with. This will only end in some person being maimed or killed. I strongly request before you make a final decision on this bill that the Committee sit and talk to the biologists at Fish and Game who can better relate to you the many documented horror stories of what has happened to bears that well meaning people attempted to domesticate and / or bears that become rogue and aggressive and cause all kinds of trouble and destruction. Remember bear baiting is a wildlife management tool don't take it away from the scientifically trained wildlife managers. Again I respectfully request your Committee to I.T.L. Senate Bill 56-FN

Thank you.


William F. Carney

Bill

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 3:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Bear Killed by John Deere Combine in Upper Michigan
Attachments: ATT00001.jpg

Subject: FW: Bear Killed by John Deere Combine in Upper Michigan

— Original Message —

Subj: Bear Killed by John Deere Combine in Upper Michigan

I think I would have made damn sure it was dead before I got off that combine.

A huge hibernating male black bear was killed Nov. 2nd in southern County when it was hit by a combine.

Neil Schlough of Brimley was harvesting corn in a field on the Pineh about 7 o'clock that evening a few miles north of the Mackinac count off of South Maple Road , or about 5 miles north of Kinross.

The bear was denning in the field, having dug a hole about a foot dee and pulled in debris from the corn stalks in on top of itself.

According to his wife, Phyllis, Neil came upon the bear with the outs his combine head and drove the outside snout into the animal's neck and pushed it about six or seven feet.

She said Neil felt the combine strike something and the outside snout up into the air (the combine wasn't damaged).

"He stepped out of the combine and saw that he had hit an animal," sl first he thought one of our dairy steers over there had gotten out, wen field, ate too much corn and died."

But it didn't take long for Neil to realize it was a bear, but it did take l realize how big it was. She said he called her and told her he thought about 300 pounds.

The DNR was called immediately and Conservation Warden Jim Cle responded.

A skid steer was taken to the field, and the bear was lifted up so that i dressed out.

"With the lights ... we could see that it was a pretty big bear," Phyllis

we had no idea until the locker plant put it on a scale that it weighed as did."

The bear was taken to the Soo Locker Plant to be prepared for mounting there that the animal was first weighed and measured.

Field dressed, the bear weighed in at 618 pounds and measured 7 feet to tail.

The Schloughs were told at the locker that they could add 80 to 100 pounds depending on the size animal, to reach an approximate actual weight.

"So we figure that bear had to weigh at least 700. We figure 700 to 720," said.

It's too early to tell if the massive animal will break any records since it has to be dried for 60 days before it can be scored.

Phyllis says they believe it has the potential to break the state mark and probably break the Chippewa County record.

More common

DNR wildlife specialist Jess Carstens said, "This is a thing that, for whatever reason, is happening quite regularly that [bears] are denning up in the fields and corn fields seem to be particularly common . due to the amount of debris from harvesting the corn that's on the ground. There's a little more pull in on top of them as they snuggle into the hole that they've dug."

Phyllis reported that they frequently see bears on their land. And she said she recently saw a sow and cub in a corn field that was being harvested.

A full-body mount

After paying \$75 to keep the bear, Neil is having the bear full-body mounted by Tom Persons, owner of TP Taxidermy.

"He's hardly ever had time to hunt or fish or anything because of farming," said of Neil. " And so, he's going to keep the bear, and he's going to have it mounted. He's really proud of his trophy.."

She said they were told by Persons that he'll have to use a grizzly bear mount for the bear because there aren't black bear mounts big enough to do it. Person reportedly also believes the bear to be 15 to 20 years old, but a skin is to be pulled during the mounting process to determine its age..

According to Wikipedia.com, male bears can reach 660 pounds, but exceptional large males can weigh up to 800 pounds.

Phyllis said Neil was recently trying to come up with a name for the house that will soon occupy a large amount of space somewhere in their home.

"I thought this was kind of funny. He said, 'I'm going to name that thing Hercules.' ... I thought Hercules for that bear was a good name."





Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6500
Headquarters: (603) 271-3421
Web site: www.WildNH.com

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
FAX (603) 271-1438
E-mail: info@wildlife.nh.gov

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Testimony in opposition to SB 56-FN, an act prohibiting the taking of bear from baited areas

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

February 6, 2013

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Mark Ellingwood. I'm a certified wildlife biologist and currently serve as Chief of the Wildlife Division for the Fish and Game Department. I'm here representing the Fish and Game Department and Commission in opposition to SB 56-FN, an act prohibiting the taking of bears from baited areas.

Bear baiting is a long-practiced tradition in New Hampshire. Our bear baiting season ranges in length from 21 to 28 days, depending on the wildlife management unit where it is being employed. Individuals other than landowners, who place bait are required to have a permit to do so. Bait can only be placed by the permit holder of the bait site; said permit holder can authorize two other individuals to hunt over their bait. Bait hunters are restricted to a maximum of 2 baits statewide while guides are limited to six.

Bear baiting accounted for 427 bears, or 53% of the 808 bears taken in New Hampshire during the 2012 season. As such, bear baiting is a popular and relatively efficient means of taking bears and an important management tool in our state. Bear hunting has traditionally consisted of 3 methods; hounding, baiting and stalking. The diversity of methods available for bear hunting reflects the challenges associated with encountering a bear. Bears exist at relatively low densities as compared to other large mammals; in addition, they favor thick cover and are often very difficult to locate. Bear harvest tends to be highly variable because of the influence that annual food production has on bear movements and behavior. Efforts to stalk or still-hunt bears are relatively inefficient and success rates are low. The use of bait increases hunter efficiency and contributes significantly to our harvest goals. Our rule-making authority allows us to properly regulate baiting and bear harvest in general.

Bears are a highly valued and well managed resource in New Hampshire. Baiting of bears is a valued method of harvest that we would like to retain in our management system. The loss of baiting as a hunting method would limit our ability to efficiently achieve our management objectives. The loss of baiting would obligate us to liberalize and lengthen existing seasons in a questionable effort to meet our harvest objectives. In addition, it would minimize our ability to deal with bears on the fringe of human development, where bait is used to manipulate bears into safe shooting locations and in so doing, contributes to efforts to mitigate bear/human conflicts.

For these reasons, and in deference to this long-held hunting tradition in NH, we ask that you vote SB 56-FN, inexpedient to legislate.

REGIONAL BEAR POPULATION MANAGEMENT GOALS

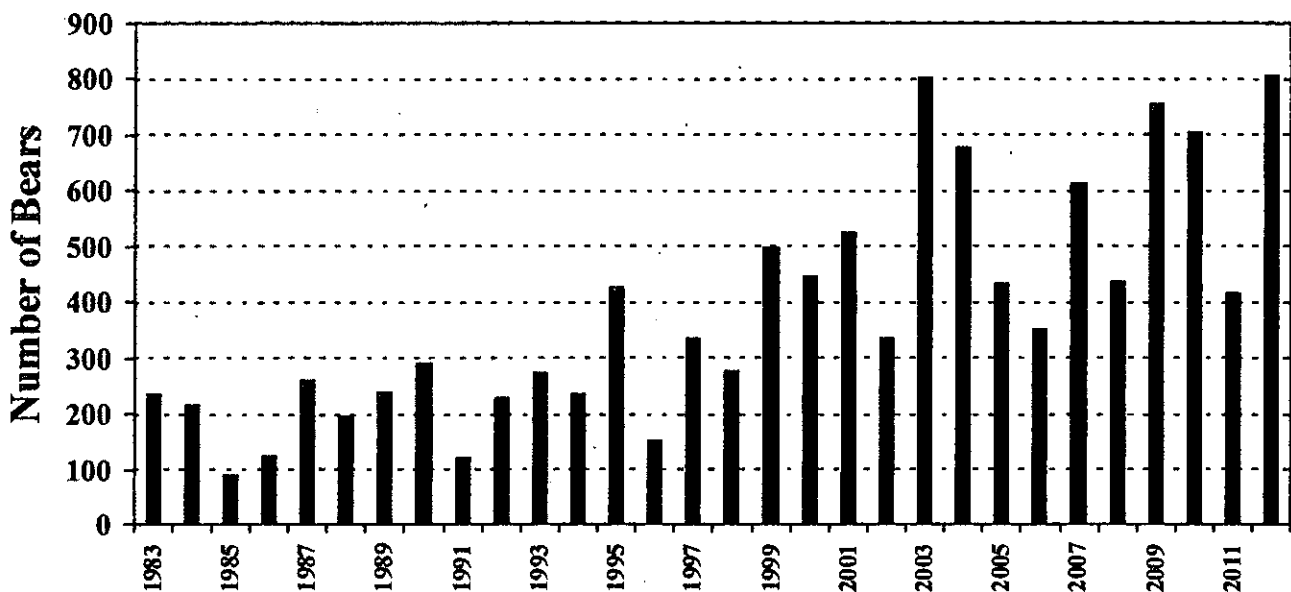
Black bear management decisions through 2015 will be based on our current Big Game Population Management Plan goals, derived through a detailed public input process. These population goals and current status are summarized in the following table, where goals and estimates are expressed in terms of bears per square mile.

REGION	2006-2015 MANAGEMENT GOAL	CURRENT POPULATION ESTIMATE ¹	MANAGEMENT REQUIRED
NORTH	0.6	0.61	Stabilize
WHITE MOUNTAINS	0.8	1.01	Decrease
CENTRAL	0.6	0.56	Stabilize
SOUTHWEST-1	0.5	0.56	Stabilize
SOUTHWEST-2	0.5	0.33	Increase
SOUTHEAST	0.2	0.06	Increase
STATEWIDE	0.5	0.56	Stabilize

¹ - 2012 data were not available for inclusion in this estimate when this report was written.

TOTAL BEAR HARVEST FOR 1983-2012 HUNTING SEASONS

Total bear harvest is the combined take of bait, hound and still hunters. As illustrated in the graph below, bear harvest has increased notably during the past decade. Periodic drops in harvest generally occur during abundant mast years. Such circumstances prompt less bear movement while foraging which decreases the vulnerability of bears to hunting. Conversely, peaks in harvest generally occur during poor mast years and reflect increased harvest vulnerability as a result of increased bear movements associated with food searching. The highest bear harvests in New Hampshire history have been achieved during the past decade with the six highest harvests occurring in that time period. Historic highs in bear harvest reflect: 1) a strong bear population, 2) increased hunting pressure – the number of individuals specifically hunting for bears has risen significantly over time, 3) increased hunting opportunity – the entire state was opened to bear hunting beginning in 1998, and 4) changes in method-specific hunter effort – the growing popularity of hunting bears with bait has resulted in higher hunter success rates thereby increasing harvest levels.



BEAR HARVEST BY METHOD (1991-2012)

A total of 808 bears were harvested during the 2012 bear season. The 2012 bear harvest was nearly twice the 2011 level (418 bears) and 37% above the preceding 5-year average (588 bears). Percent harvest by method in recent years has averaged 41% by still hunters, 47% by bait hunters and 12% by hound hunters. Percent harvest by method during 2012 was 35% by still hunters, 53% by bait hunters and 12% by hound hunters. While the percentage of the annual harvest taken by bait hunters last fall increased slightly, percent take by method remained generally consistent with recent averages. Annual variation in method-specific harvest percentages are expected due to annual changes in the distribution and abundance of food as well as hunter effort.

The number of bears taken during the November deer season varies on an annual basis and is affected by many factors. Fall food conditions and the impact on denning phenology likely have the greatest influence. However, season length and the degree of overlap between the bear and deer season does play a significant role. During strong food years, bears delay den entry and remain active later into fall, resulting in a greater percentage of bears being harvested during the deer season. Conversely, during poor food years bears den earlier and therefore are less vulnerable to opportunistic harvest by deer hunters. Statewide, only 6% of the still hunter harvest occurred during the muzzleloader deer season (none taken during regular firearms season). This percentage was considerably lower compared to 2011 (an abundant food year) when 30% of the still hunter harvest occurred during the muzzleloader and rifle deer seasons. The decrease last fall was the result of low fall food abundance which caused bears to den early. Of the state's six bear management regions, four were open to bear hunting during the muzzleloader deer season and one was open (for 14 days) during the regular firearms deer season.

YEAR	HUNTING METHOD			TOTAL
	STILL	BAIT	HOUND	
1991	79	15	29	123
1992	157	34	39	230
1993	171	52	51	274
1994	153	39	47	239
1995	301	72	55	428
1996	62	52	38	152
1997	202	69	64	335
1998	181	53	45	279
1999	313	117	69	499
2000	294	118	37	449
2001	295	169	63	527
2002	203	92	43	338
2003	462	274	67	803
2004	343	244	92	679
2005	190	179	65	434
2006	149	152	51	352
2007	277	278	60	615
2008	209	176	55	440
2009	295	372	91	758
2010	252	372	83	707
2011	155	193	70	418
2012	282	427	99	808

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SENATE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date: 2.6.13

THE COMMITTEE ON Energy and Natural Resources
to which was referred Senate Bill 56-FN

AN ACT prohibiting the taking of bear from baited areas.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill:

IS INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

BY A VOTE OF: 4-0

Senator Russell Prescott
For the Committee

Chris Cote 271-3067

New Hampshire General Court - Bill Status System

Docket of SB56

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: prohibiting the taking of bear from baited areas.*Official Docket of SB56:*

Date	Body	Description
1/3/2013	S	Introduced and Referred to Energy and Natural Resources; SJ 4
1/31/2013	S	Hearing: 2/6/13, Room 101, LOB, 9:45 a.m.; SC7
2/6/2013	S	Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate, 2/14/13; SC8
2/14/2013	S	Inexpedient to Legislate, MA, VV === BILL KILLED ===; SJ 5

NH House

NH Senate

Other Referrals

5B 56

COMMITTEE REPORT FILE INVENTORY

_____ ORIGINAL REFERRAL _____ RE-REFERRAL

1. THIS INVENTORY IS TO BE SIGNED AND DATED BY THE COMMITTEE AIDE AND PLACED INSIDE THE FOLDER AS THE FIRST ITEM IN THE COMMITTEE FILE.
2. PLACE ALL DOCUMENTS IN THE FOLDER FOLLOWING THE INVENTORY IN THE ORDER LISTED.
3. THE DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE AN "X" BESIDE THEM ARE CONFIRMED AS BEING IN THE FOLDER.
4. THE COMPLETED FILE IS THEN DELIVERED TO THE CALENDAR CLERK.

cc DOCKET (Submit only the latest docket found in Bill Status)

cc COMMITTEE REPORT

cc CALENDAR NOTICE

cc HEARING REPORT

cc HANDOUTS FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING

cc PREPARED TESTIMONY AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS

cc SIGN-UP SHEET(S)

ALL AMENDMENTS (passed or not) CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE:

_____ - AMENDMENT # _____ _____ - AMENDMENT # _____
 _____ - AMENDMENT # _____ _____ - AMENDMENT # _____

ALL AVAILABLE VERSIONS OF THE BILL:

cc AS INTRODUCED _____ AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE
 _____ FINAL VERSION _____ AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

_____ OTHER (Anything else deemed important but not listed above, such as amended fiscal notes): _____

DATE DELIVERED TO SENATE CLERK 8.8.13



BY COMMITTEE AIDE