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**July 18, 2023**

**UAF professor to present research showing that killing more bears and wolves does not increase the number of moose that hunters harvest**

Professor Terry Bowyer of the Institute of Arctic Biology, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, will present [research](#) during a scientific conference this week that shows that predator control efforts like those employed by the Alaska Board of Game do not increase hunters' harvests of moose and caribou.

The Board of Game is mired in several controversies over its efforts to increase moose and caribou populations for sport hunters by reducing predator populations like bears and wolves. Most recently, the board authorized a predator control effort in Southwestern Alaska that resulted in the killing of 97 bears at a significant cost to the state budget. The state has also been embroiled in a long-term battle with the National Park Service over the Board's decision to authorize the killing of black bear sows and cubs in dens, the killing of wolves and pups during denning season, and brown bear baiting in portions of national preserves in Alaska.

Bowyer co-authored the paper with Sterling Miller, a retired biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In it, they present data that suggests the state's predator control policies do not work. Bowyer will talk about this research and the resulting paper, "Efficacy of Killing Large Carnivores to Enhance Moose Harvests: New Insights from a Long-Term View" at the International Mammalogical Congress in Anchorage, Alaska, on Thursday, July 20, at 8 am.

The research and presentation have significant implications for Alaska Board of Game efforts from outright predator control by the state to efforts to create larger predator harvests by allowing hunting practices like brown bear baiting and letting hunters kill large numbers of bears.

Members of the media can get press credentials for the presentation here:  
<https://imc13.com/registration/media/>

Reporters can set up an interview with Sterling Miller by texting or calling him at 907-531-8361.