

Brown Bear Management Issues Today on Hokkaido

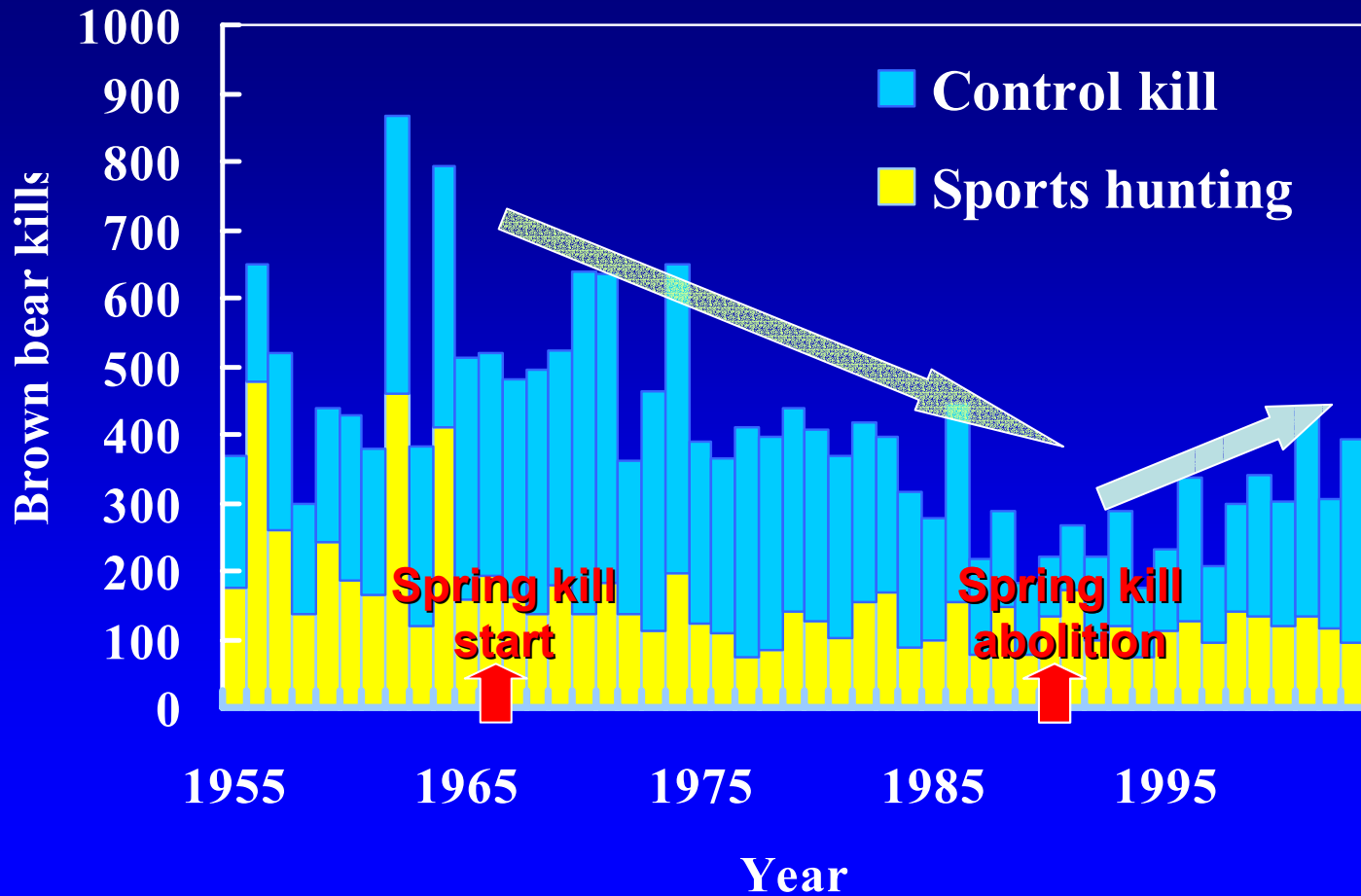
**Vth NF Brown Bear Working Group Meeting
Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan August 7-8, 2005**

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Hokkaido Government**

Hokkaido's Brown Bear Management Background

- In 1966, the Hokkaido Government began the spring bear kills to allow hunters to kill bears as many as possible after occurrence of serious injuries and damages in the early 1960's.
- The Hokkaido Gov. stopped it in 1990 due to...
declined human injuries, bear caused damages,
growing public calls for nature conservation,
and...
significant decline of some local populations.

Brown bear caused human casualties and damages for livestock, and brown bear kills since 1955 through 2003.



Up dated issues in 2004-2005

1. Discussion on the wildlife management system in the future

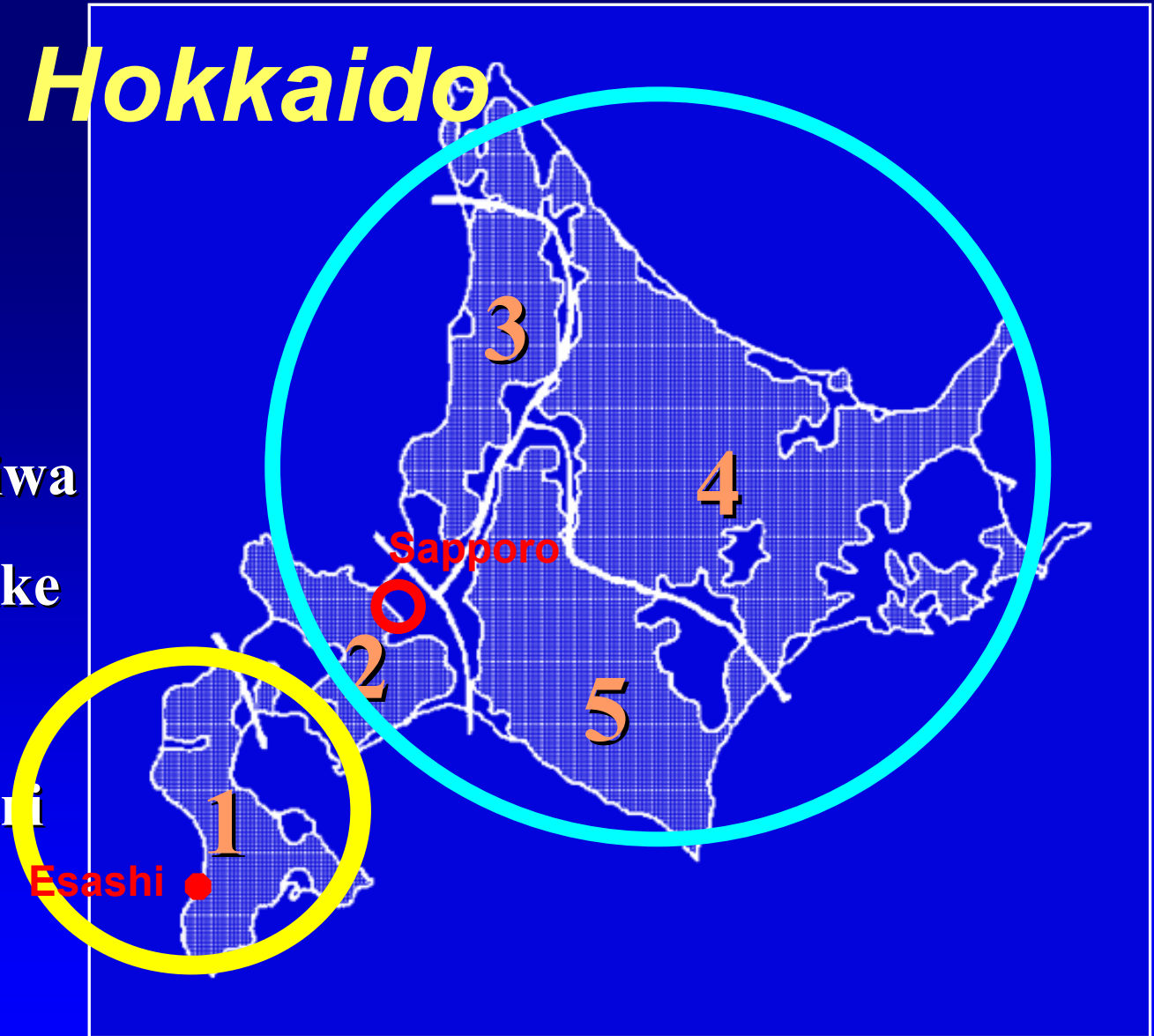
Hokkaido Gov. hold a tentative committee organized with local gov. hunters association, NGO and intelligent persons.

1. Discussion on the wildlife management system in the future

- The most concern is that it is anticipated that problem bear control will not be able to be performed in the nearest future because of the skilled bear hunter decline.**
- It was confirmed that it is essential to establish an new management system with responsible regional manager instead of present voluntary control work by hunters.**

Outline of the *Brown Bear* Range in Hokkaido

1. Oshima Pen.
2. Shakotan-Eniwa
3. Teshio-Mashike
4. Doto-Sohya
5. Hidaka-Yubari



HOKKAIDO-IES'S BROWN BEAR MONITOR

Landscape Level (Wildlife Section, Sapporo)

- *Hunting Statistics Analysis*
- *Biological Survey of Killed Individuals*
- *Periodical Questionnaire of Distribution*
- *Landscape Level Bear Sign Survey*

Regional Level (Southern Hokkaido Wildlife Office, Esashi)

- *Radio-tracking in the Intensive Study Area*
- *Population estimation using genetic tagging*

Brown bear conservation and management plan for the Oshima Peninsula, Hokkaido

since 2000

(1) Targets

- ① Prevention of human injuries by brown bears**
- ② Minimize economic damages by brown bears**
- ③ Guarantee bear population maintenance**

(2) Approach

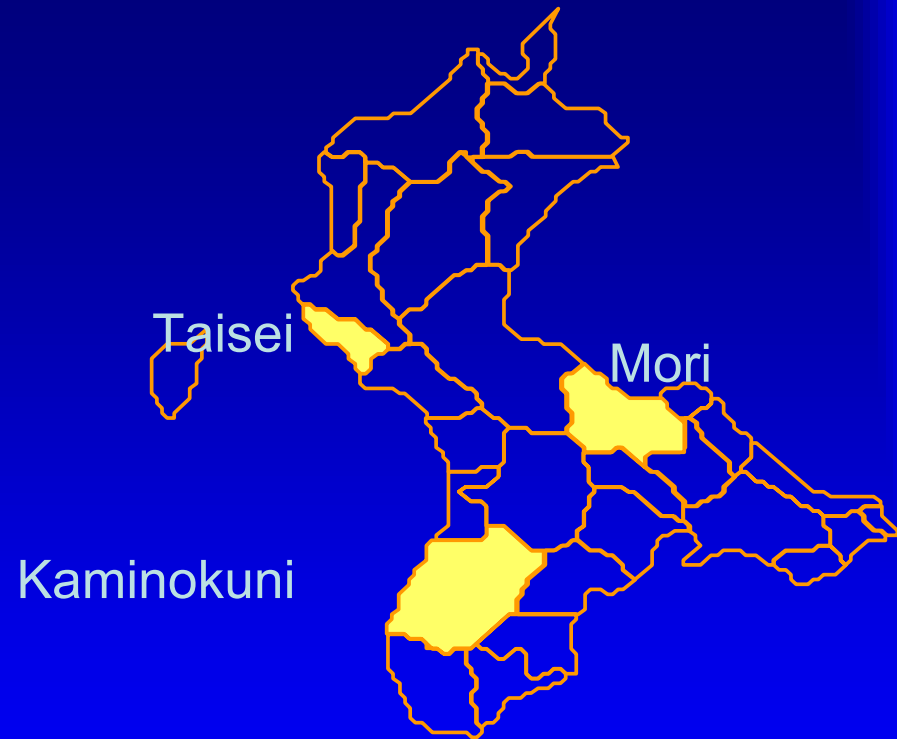
- ① Emphasizing damage prevention**
- ② Management measures based on monitoring**
- ③ Encouraging communication with various people and institutions for better co-operation**

2. Revision of the Brown Bear Management Plan for Oshima Peninsula

- Control killing in the snow remaining season (2002-2004) was abolished due to lower effect than anticipated.**
- Bear hunting in the spring to accumulate the skill of young hunters has begun as an attempt.**

3. An attempt to establish a new management system

- As a model case, we posted fulltime workers for bear management.
- The managers collaborate with rural public to reduce human-bear conflicts.



Planned action and issues in the future

- **Whole revision of the Management Plan for the Oshima Peninsula brown bear population in 2006**
- **Brown bear population management with the numerical target**
- **Intensifying brown bear monitoring system**