

Department of Commerce and Labor

Brown Bears. Notes from Natives, Trappers
and prospectors.

Brown bears are reported to be fairly common in the upper timbered country of the Nurbayah watershed. Not more than 15 or 20 years ago it was no uncommon sight to see 8 to 15 bears on a single hill side. Those natives who have seen catts on Kodiak I. always compare them to bears seen in their boyhood days. The old trails along small creeks are yet easily followed as far west as Lake Aleknagik. Claw marks up 8 or 9 feet high may be seen on many of the trees of the upper Nurbayah. On the Matlachan R. one bear trail leads up a long hog back of a ridge in many places over solid rock. The bears are in the habit of always stepping in the same place and the foot marks are in places worn 2 to 3 inches ^{deep} in the solid rock.

The season of activity is from April until Nov. The dens are chosen away back in the mountains and the female gives birth to the young before coming from winter quarters. One two or three constitute a litter, two being the usual number of young. They follow the mother until the end of the