

北海道熊研究会」Hokkaido Bear Research Association 創刊 2013年1月25日
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北海道熊研究会事務局 北海道野生動物研究所内 (Tel. 011-892-1057)

代表 門崎 允昭

事務局長 Peter Nichols ピーターニコルス氏

幹事長 藤田 弘志 氏

ご意見ご連絡は本紙送信 email ではなく、下記の email へお願い致します

e-mail: kadosaki@pop21.odn.ne.jp

会報の1～112号以前の号は Website に「北海道野生動物研究所」と入力し、ご覧下さい。

「北海道熊研究会」の Facebook の編集は横山敬子氏が当たります

Facebook] <https://www.facebook.com/HokkaidoBearResearch> Association

「北海道熊研究会」Hokkaido Bear Research Association の活動目的

熊の実像について調査研究し、熊による人畜及びその他経済的被害を予防しつつ、人と熊が棲み分けた状態で共存を図り、狩猟以外では熊を殺さない社会の形成を図るための提言と啓発活動を行う。この考えの根底は、この大地は総ての生き物の共有物であり、生物間での食物連鎖の宿命と疾病原因生物以外については、この地球上に生を受けたものは生有る限りお互いの存在を容認しようと言う生物倫理(生物の一員として人が為すべき正しき道)に基づく理念による。

会報113号で、「北海道の熊問題を考える会」が道の熊問題対応に
つい北海道知事に対し、書面で質問した内容と、それに対する知事の回答書(全文)を、皆さんにお知らせしましたが、その全文を、本会報関連の Facebook と Twitter を編集して下さっている横山敬子氏が、全文を英訳して下さったので、本報にそれを、掲載致します。分かり易い、**綺麗な英文**ですので、皆さん、是非とも、ご一読して下さい(門崎允昭記)

質問は11項目です

＜次頁から英文です＞

On March 24, 2022, the “Hokkaido Bear Research Association” asked the Hokkaido Governor about the Hokkaido’s bear problem and on June 14, 2022, we received a response from the person in charge of oral and written answers.

Regarding : Question 1

At the end of May 1989 (33 years ago), Hokkaido announced the total abolition of the spring bear extermination system due to the decrease in the number of brown bears, and began a “survey to establish measures to prevent human and economic damage” caused by brown bears. In the 33 years since then, the survey has continued, but no recommendations for brown bear countermeasures have been made.

Response to Question 1 from the Governor

From the perspective of Hokkaido's biodiversity, brown bears are an important component of the ecosystem, and we have been implementing protection and management measures based on the need to maintain healthy local populations in the future. Based on past and current brown bear countermeasures, the Hokkaido Government reviewed the “Hokkaido Brown Bear Countermeasures Plan” (April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2022) last fiscal year and formulated the “Hokkaido Brown Bear Countermeasures Plan (2nd)” (formulated in March 2022, hereafter “the Plan”). The Plan incorporates the Hokkaido Government’s past and current initiatives. Please refer to the relevant sections of the Plan (pages 1-3, etc.) for a summary of the past and current initiatives of the Hokkaido Government.

URL of the main text of the plan: <https://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ks/skn/higuma/higuma.html>

Question 2

In the 33 years of surveys conducted from 1989 to the current day, what specific measures have been taken to “prevent human economic damage” through DNA analysis of body hair samples for individual identification and video camera recordings?

Answer to Question 2 from the Governor

The identification of individuals by analysis of genes collected from body hair is conducted by the Hokkaido Prefectural Government for the purpose of estimating population density using the hair-trap method and identifying the perpetrator individuals in the event of an accident. The former method is recognized as an important survey because its usefulness has been established worldwide in assessing the conservation status of each local population and examining the direction of conservation management by combining it with other density indices to estimate population size. In addition to genetic analysis, we also use video data from an automatic camera installed next to the

body hair sampling equipment in the population survey. For the purpose of the survey (e.g., to identify parents and children), we have identified cases in which the same individual has caused damage over a wide area, and we have also identified individuals that have caused damage to the same farmland over multiple years, and we use this information to understand the actual damage and consider countermeasures. In addition, we have also utilized the results to verify the elimination of problematic individuals, such as a case in which the genes of a captured individual were determined to be the same as those collected from the scene of a human accident that occurred in the current year and the previous year.

Question 3

Regarding the brown bear disturbance in which four people were injured by a brown bear in Higashi Ward, Sapporo City on June 18, 2021, there is no way that a brown bear could injure residents in an urban area if you have 33 years of experience in research and investigation.

Question 3-1.

Since a brown bear was sighted on May 29, you should have continued to investigate the movement of brown bears at that time, and at the same time, you should have identified the points and areas where brown bears are expected to enter the urban area, and installed electric fences in those areas to prevent them from entering the urban area. Could you explain in detail why such measures were not taken.

Regarding Question 3-1

The City of Sapporo has formulated the “Sapporo Basic Plan for Brown Bears” and is implementing measures based on this plan.

Question 3-2.

The brown bear’s poor and negligent initial response caused it to expand its range of activities, and it finally roamed a residential area on June 18.

This was the reason the brown bear expanded its range of activity and finally roamed the residential area on June 18. However, chasing and cornering the brown bear caused it to panic, as the saying goes, “a cornered rat will bite a cat,” and as a result, as many as four people were injured.

Could you tell us if you were aware that chasing and cornering a brown bear would be dangerous because it would cause it to panic?

The Governor's response to Question 3-2

Regarding the dangers that may arise from chasing brown bears around, in general terms, we consider them to be possible.

Question 3-3.

Why didn't Hokkaido's brown bear experts, who have 33 years of research experience, rush to the site when brown bears were roaming in this residential area? Could you explain in detail why you did not rush to the site and take the lead there?

Answer to Question 3-3

As mentioned in our response to Question 3-1, in the case of the Higashi Ward of Sapporo City in June last year, the city took the lead in ensuring the safety of residents as the top priority, in cooperation with a specialized brown bear protection contractor, trappers and police. When requested by a municipality, the Hokkaido Prefectural Government will, if necessary, provide the necessary support to the municipalities. The Hokkaido Prefectural Government dispatches experts from the Hokkaido Research Organization and other organizations as needed to provide advice and guidance on countermeasures when requested by a municipality.

Question 3-4.

I heard that there are several brown bear experts in Hokkaido. Even if none of the specialists were able to attend the scene, police officers who are not brown bear specialists were responding to the situation on site, so they could have given instructions as specialists.

Could you tell us in detail what kind of instructions were given to the police officers on site and from what point in time, so that we can understand the timeline.

Answer to Question 3-4

As mentioned in our response to Question 3-1, Sapporo City has formulated the "Sapporo Brown Bear Basic Plan" to deal with the case of the brown bear in Higashi ward, Sapporo City, in June last year.

Question 4

Regarding the damage caused by brown bears to grazing cattle in Shibecha Town, it seems that only video recording was done.

Why didn't they take prompt measures to deter brown bears by using electric fences?

Could you explain in detail so that we can understand the reasons in chronological order.

The Governor's response to Question 4

The "Act on Special Measures for Prevention of Damage Caused by Birds and Animals to Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, etc." provides a subsidy system so that local municipalities and affected farmers can take measures against agricultural damage as you mentioned in your question.

Since 2018, when the damage to cattle was first confirmed in Shibecha Town, the town and the promotion bureau have been working in close cooperation to consider various possibilities and to develop countermeasures. The town and the promotion bureau have been working together to implement countermeasures since 2019, when the damage to cattle was first confirmed.

Question 5.

Can the deterrence of brown bears be achieved by increasing the number of brown bears killed?

If so, please explain in detail and provide evidence.

Answer to Question 5 from the Governor

The plan states in "Chapter 2 Promotion of Management", "2 Matters Concerning Adjustment of Numbers" (pages 11 and 12) that Unlike brown bears are different from Ezo sika deer in that most of the collection conflicts with humans are caused by so-called problem individuals that have learned to cling to garbage and crops, and that unless the problem individuals are removed even if the population is reduced, pressure will continue. Therefore, it is possible to maintain the total population while controlling the pressure by identifying and eliminating the problematic individuals.

Therefore, at this point, we will continue to establish methods for estimating and verifying problem individuals and promote management aimed at eliminating problem individuals.

Therefore, the target population is defined as "problem individuals (Stage 1-3)," and the maximum number of animals to be captured is to be observed in principle. The elimination of problem animals is important for the control of the smash and grab.

With regard to population control, Recently, in all regions of the province, we have seen an increase in agricultural damage, and an increase in different forms of population control, such as appearance in areas adjacent to human living areas and urban areas. Therefore, we will examine the latest scientific data on habitat conditions and other factors, and, taking into account the opinions of experts and other relevant factors, we will begin studying the feasibility of population adjustments to achieve the objectives of this plan as soon as possible. The plan states that the government will "begin to study at an early stage the feasibility of population adjustment and the ideal way to achieve the objectives of this plan, taking into consideration the opinions of experts.

Question 6

Regarding the budget for the new fiscal year related to brown bears in Hokkaido, could you tell us the cost of measures to deter their appearance using electric fences, DNA analysis, video camera, ICT (AI), and the percentage of these costs to the total budget ?

Governor's Response to Question 6

Hokkaido's FY2022 budget is available at the following website.

<https://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/sm/zsi/96318.html> In "Promotion of comprehensive brown bear countermeasures" on page 35 of the "List of Priority Policies," 23,305,000 yen is appropriated for "Promotion of brown bear countermeasures" to promote comprehensive brown bear countermeasures in Hokkaido based on the "Hokkaido Brown Bear Management Plan (Phase 2)".

In addition, on page 53 of the same document, under "Demonstration of brown bear resistant community development using ICT", 14,823,000 yen was appropriated for the "Demonstration model project for brown bear resistant community development using ICT", which will be used for understanding the actual conditions of brown bear habitat using ICT, etc., demonstrating effective measures against brown bears coming out and building technology to prevent brown bears from coming out.

The "expense for measures to deter appearance of brown bears by electric fences" you inquired about will be implemented by municipalities with financial support from the national government based on the "Act on Special Measures for Prevention of Damage to Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, etc. by Birds and Beasts".

Among these, "expenses for DNA analysis", "expenses for videotaping", and "expenses for ICT (AI)" are part of the projects planned to be ordered as commissioned work, and the commissioned companies will allocate the expenses in the contract amount.

Question 7.

It seems that a new department for brown bear control will be established.

Could you explain in detail what kind of measures will be taken?

The Governor's response to Question 7

Until last fiscal year, one assistant section chief, one section chief, two chiefs, and two staff in charge in the Wildlife and Birds Section of the Natural Environment Division were in charge of brown bear countermeasures, with one chief and one staff in charge exclusively in charge.

This year, the Natural Environment Wildlife Division of the Bureau of Natural Environment The office is staffed with a director, a manager, an assistant director, and a person in charge of brown bear countermeasures.

Question 8

After 33 years, the committee, which is made up of only experts who neglected to observe brown bears, has still failed to come up with effective measures to deter the appearance of brown bears, and has also failed to come up with appropriate measures to deter the appearance of brown bears that are in line with their habits. The result has been that the brown bears have repeatedly appeared in the area, causing a variety of damage and increasing the extent of damage.

In order to eliminate the current 33 years of deadlock and incorporate new knowledge and ideas, we would like to ask the governor to establish a system to plan realistic and effective brown bear countermeasures by recruiting people who know the situation in the field and are familiar with the habits of brown bears, and by establishing dedicated brown bear countermeasure teams at the central and local agencies.

We would like to ask the governor's opinion on this matter. If the current composition of the committee members remains unchanged, we will not be able to deter brown bears from appearing in the future, and the damage will only continue to increase.

The Governor's response to Question 8

The Hokkaido Brown Bear Conservation and Management Study Group (hereafter referred to as the “Study Group”) was established in order to properly promote the Hokkaido Brown Bear Management Plan. It is to properly promote the Hokkaido Brown Bear Management Plan.

For this purpose, the committee was established by the Hokkaido Prefectural Government to hear the opinions and assessments of the brown bear habitat situation and the measures implemented by the Hokkaido Prefectural Government from academic experts and others based on their professional and scientific knowledge, and to reflect them in the Hokkaido's brown bear management plan. (Article 1 of the Outline for Establishment of the Study Group)

The members of the committee are requested by the Province based on their academic activities in their respective areas of expertise and the results of protection and management in their respective regions.

On the other hand, this fiscal year, the Hokkaido Prefectural Government started the “Hokkaido Brown Bear Emergency Expert Dispatch Program” to dispatch pre-registered experts to municipalities to provide advice from a professional perspective on cases that are highly urgent and difficult to solve, such as the frequent appearance of brown bears in human habitats and the continuous damage they cause to agricultural lands. The "Hokkaido Brown Bear Emergency Expert Dispatch System" will be started.

The Hokkaido Prefectural Government, through the Hokkaido Prefectural Bureau of Promotion, is currently in the process of identifying local manpower. The Hokkaido Prefectural Government will continue to improve the brown bear countermeasures in Hokkaido through these efforts, taking into consideration the opinions we have received.

End