

# Thinking outside the box:

Reducing Fisher  
bycatch

*Presented to: EKTA, February 17, 2021*

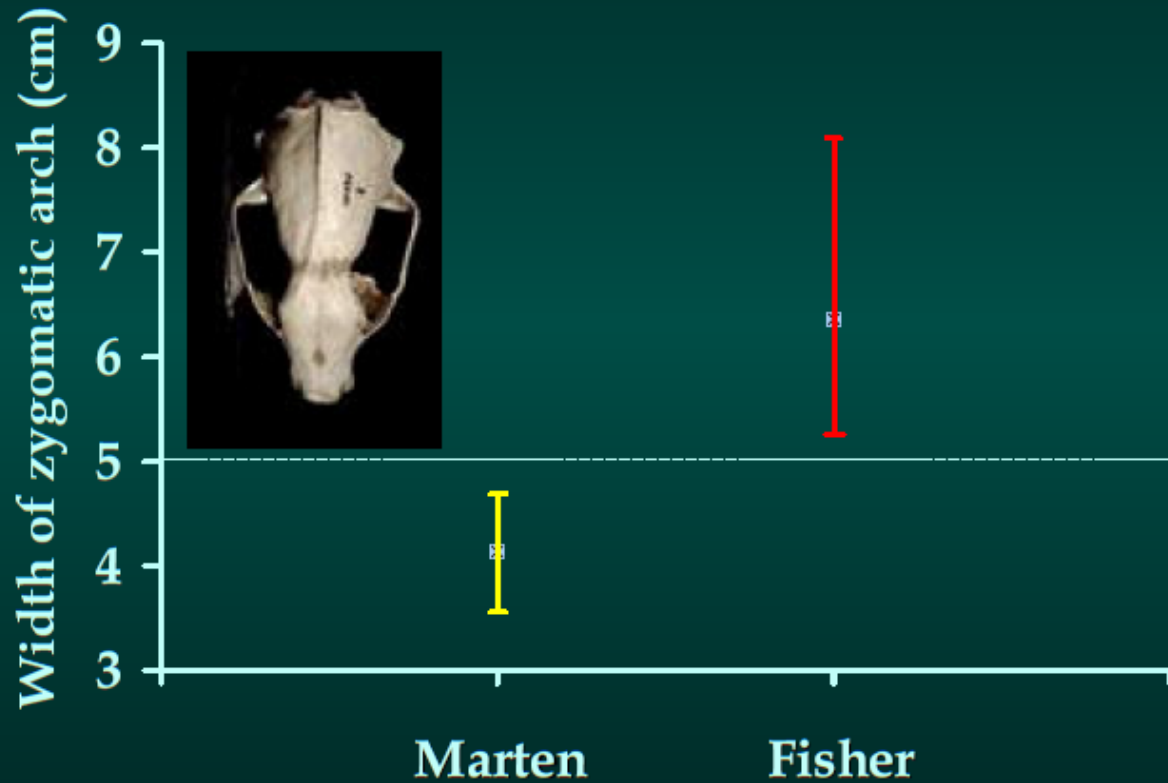
*Presented by: INGEBJORG JEAN HANSEN, Wildlife Specialist*

What is a fisher  
exclusion box  
and how does it  
work?

A modified marten box that prevents fishers from entering while still allowing for marten to enter and be humanely harvested

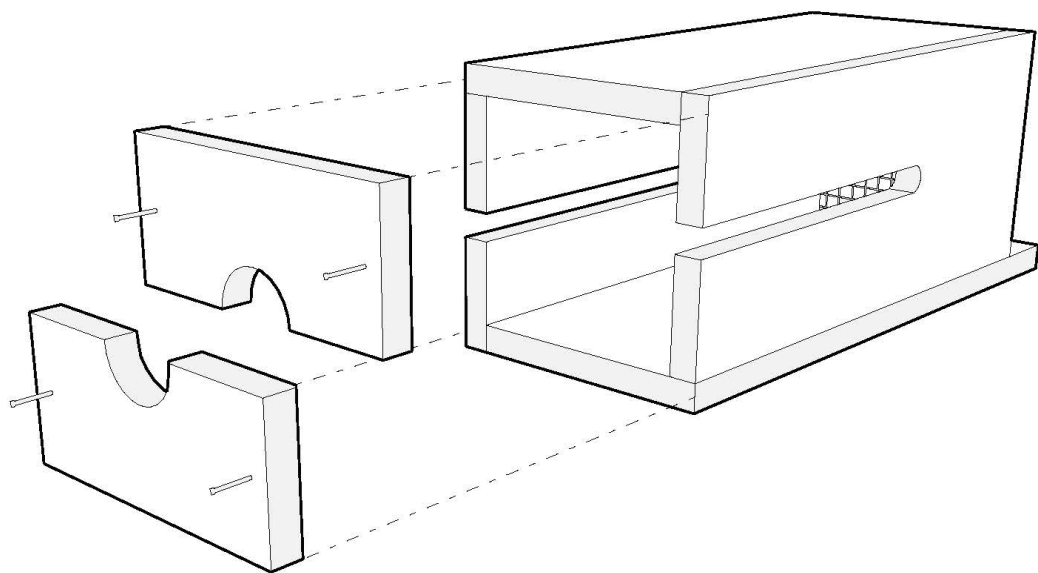
By exploiting a physical difference between fishers and martens

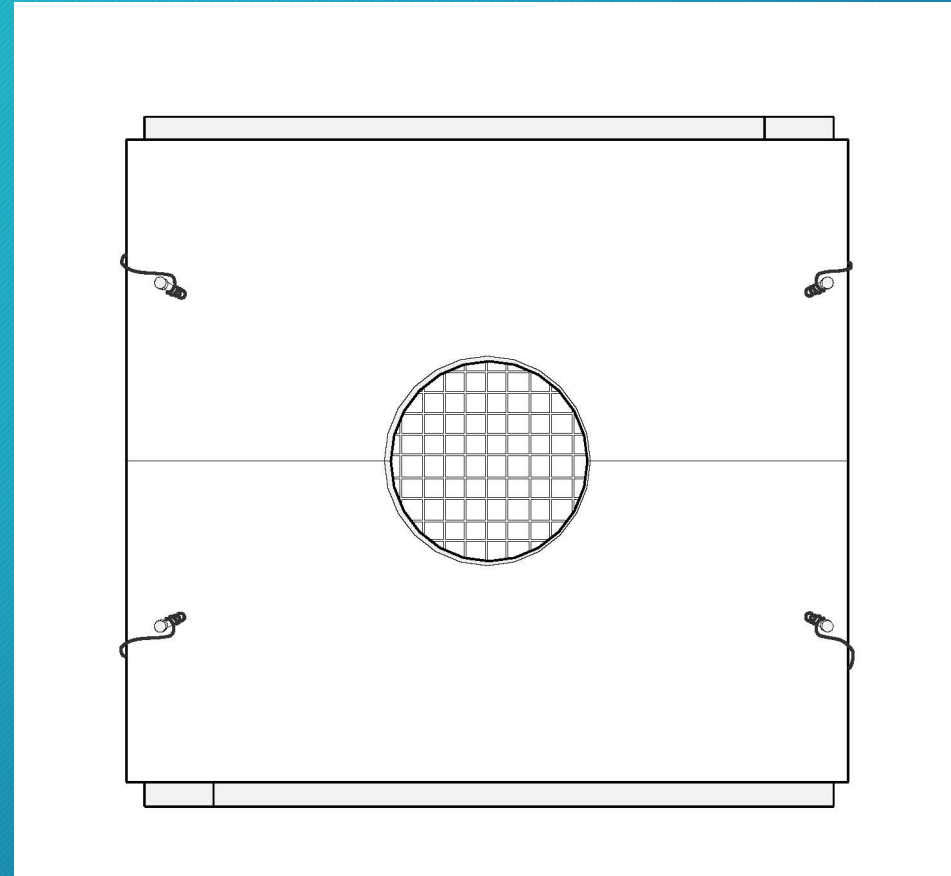
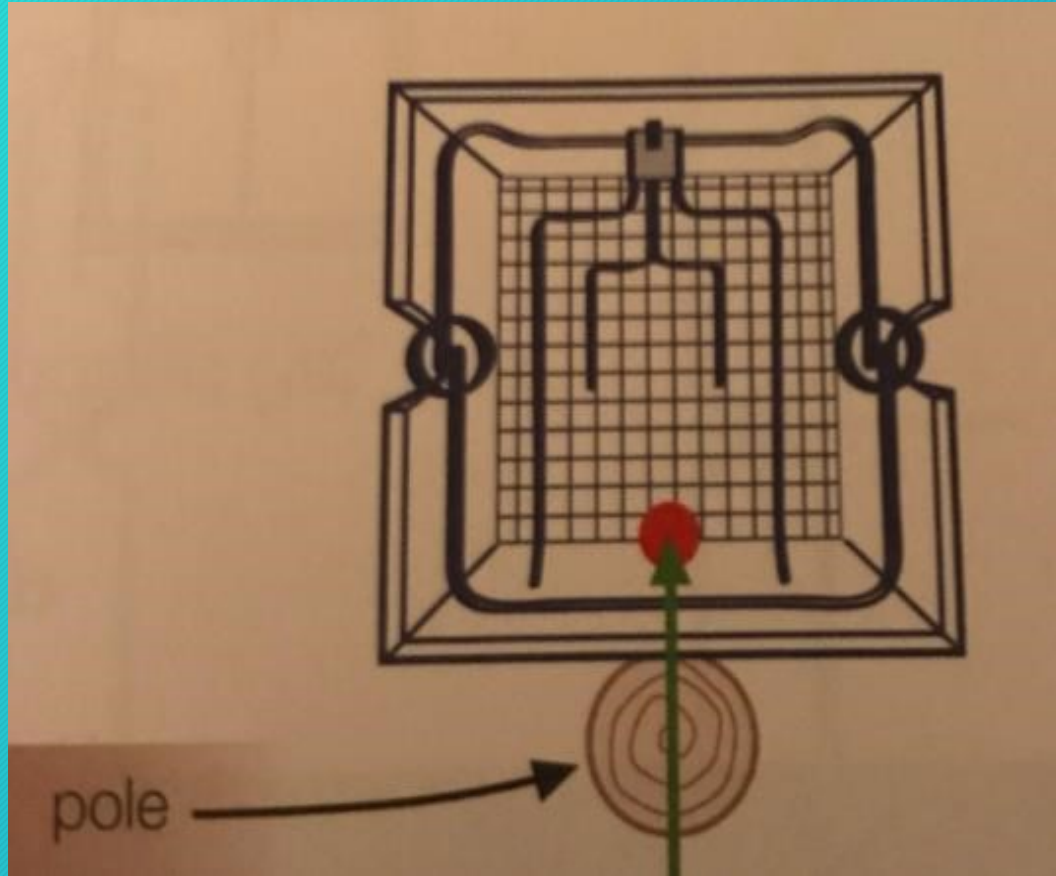
Does this graph make my cheekbones look big?





Voila!



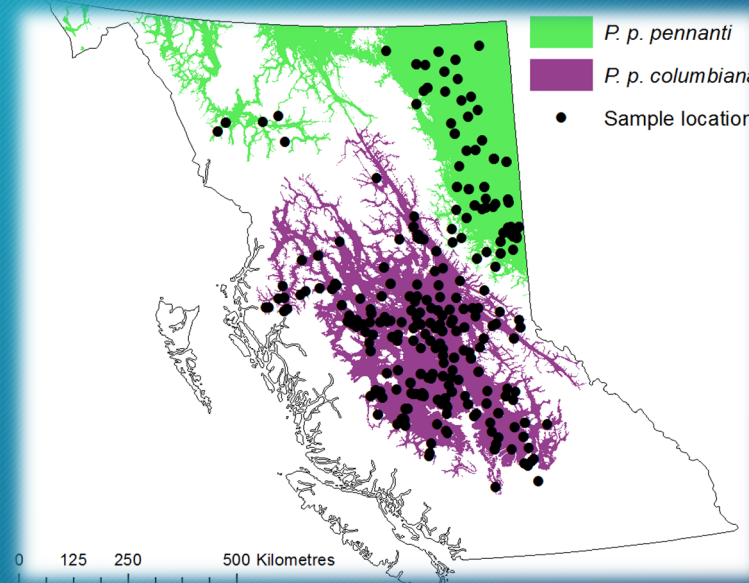




# Why did we develop the fisher exclusion box?



- Fishers are typically “bycatch” in marten sets
- Fisher populations are declining, especially in the Central Interior where they were red-listed this spring (end of March 2020)
- The issue is habitat, but trapping can be additive



# General results:

- Successfully caught martens in the traps with the exclusion plates
  - Caught the largest marten that one trapper ever caught (zygomatic arch width measured just over 5cm)
- Successfully prevented fishers from entering a box with the exclusion plate
- Two marten potentially did not die quickly (carcasses sent for necropsy to Dr. H. Schwantje)
- Perhaps most importantly, received trapper approval for the design and after “seeing is believing”, they had to admit that maybe that entrance hole is not too small to catch the big marten



# Questions?

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# Thanks to:



Together for  
Wildlife