

North Carolina Furbearer Management Newsletter



Some of the information in this letter has been provided through the cooperative efforts of North Carolina’s licensed trappers and licensed fur dealers. The information they provide helps the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission monitor furbearer harvest levels and track trends in the population.

Regulations changes for the 2009-10 furbearer harvest season

- Raccoons can now be trapped statewide. Removed restriction on trapping raccoons in District 9.
- Removed bag limits on otters in western North Carolina. There are now no bag limits on otters statewide.

Additional fox trapping opportunities

During the most recent North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) legislative session, one additional county was opened to fox trapping:

- Davidson – New season

For information on fox hunting and trapping seasons in North Carolina go to: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/> and click on “Trapping Regulations”



Public Hearings for January 2010

There are a number of rule change proposals being considered for the 2010-2011 hunting and trapping season. You will have the opportunity to provide comments on these proposals during January 2010 through district public hearings (see map below) and through our website at: www.ncwildlife.org

Public hearings dates and locations have not been finalized. Please check www.ncwildlife.org in late fall for public hearing locations.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission District Boundaries

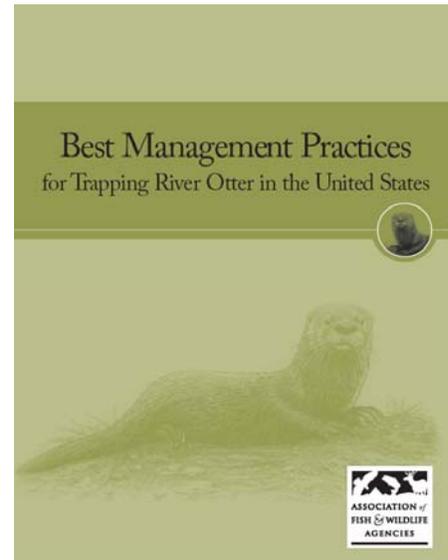


Trapping Best Management Practices (BMPs)

In 1996, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) began one of the most ambitious research projects to develop a program to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for regulated trapping.

The program aims to evaluate animal welfare, identify efficient trapping tools and techniques, and develop recommendations for state fish and wildlife agencies to consider as an element of their wildlife management programs.

Experts from all 50 state fish and wildlife agencies, federal wildlife agencies, state and national trapping associations and other conservation groups that care about the environment, natural resources and animal welfare are working together to improve and modernize the technology of trapping through scientific research.



Goals of the BMPs:

- Improve trapping by improving trapping efficiency, trapping selectivity, and the welfare of trapped animals.
- Educate people about traps and trapping systems considered to be state-of-the-art in animal welfare and efficiency.
- Improve the image of trapping and enhance the public's awareness and understanding of modern trapping.
- Sustain regulated trapping as a wildlife management technique.

Trapping BMPs have been developed for the following species:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Beaver | • Muskrat |
| • Bobcat | • Nutria |
| • Coyote, Eastern | • Opossum |
| • Coyote, Western | • Raccoon |
| • Fisher | • River Otter |
| • Fox, Red | • Striped Skunk |
| • Fox, Gray | • Weasel |
| • Mink | |

The use of BMPs by trappers is important for furbearer management programs across the United States. Please visit www.ncwildlife.org/trapping and click on "Trapping Best Management Practices" for species-specific BMP publications.

Season Results from 2008-2009 Furbearer Harvest Season

Information on the harvest of furbearer species taken comes from the voluntary mail survey of licensed trappers and information provided by licensed fur dealers.

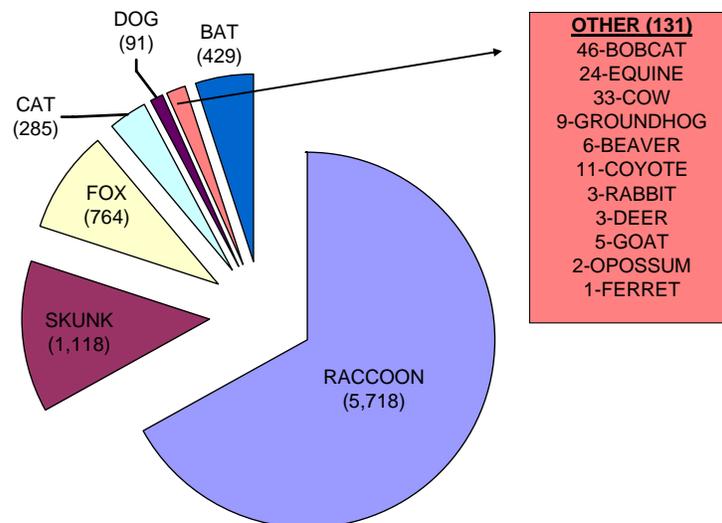
2008-09 Furbearer Trapper Harvest, Average Pelt Prices and Value

| Species | Harvest 2007-08 | Harvest 2008-09 ¹ | % change in harvest from prior season | Average Price | Total Value |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Beaver | 9,919 | 8,358 | -16% | \$8.80 | \$73,506 |
| Mink | 331 | 193 | -42% | \$5.87 | \$1,109 |
| Muskrat | 3,543 | 2,698 | -24% | \$2.45 | \$6,595 |
| Nutria | 2,436 | 2,173 | -11% | \$0.61 | \$1,326 |
| Otter | 1,457 | 1,341 | -8% | \$26.21 | \$35,017 |
| Bobcat | 1,045 | 993 | -5% | \$19.01 | \$18,858 |
| Coyote | 1,434 | 1,747 | 22% | \$8.94 | \$15,618 |
| Gray Fox | 5,560 | 4,212 | -24% | \$16.00 | \$67,376 |
| Red Fox | 1,180 | 838 | -29% | \$9.60 | \$8,035 |
| Opossum | 6,393 | 4,481 | -30% | \$1.53 | \$6,851 |
| Raccoon | 6,712 | 7,307 | 9% | \$5.73 | \$41,617 |
| Skunk | 641 | 354 | -45% | \$2.77 | \$981 |
| Weasel | 0 | 0 | 0% | N/A | N/A |
| TOTALS | 40,651 | 34,695 | -15% | -- | \$276,890 |

¹Updated as of September 2009. Final harvest figures may change as more trapper surveys are received.

Rabies information

During 2008, there were 409 furbearers, comprising of beaver, bobcat, coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon and skunk, which tested positive for rabies during calendar year 2008. This was 1% increase in the number of rabies-positive furbearers than during the prior reporting year.



Species Composition of North Carolina Rabies Cases, Excluding Bats 1990-2008

Trapper Education Opportunities

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) offers free Trapper Education Courses.

For more information on future trapper education courses contact:

David Denton
Phone: (252) 482-7105
E-mail: d1huntersafety@inteliport.com



Or visit our website at: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/trapping> and click on "Trapper Education Opportunities"

Websites of interest

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/>

North Carolina Trappers Association

<http://www.nctrappers.com/>

National Trappers Association

<http://www.nationaltrappers.com/>

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Furbearer Resources

<http://www.fishwildlife.org/furbearer.html>

Conserve Wildlife

<http://www.conservewildlife.org/>

Furbearers Unlimited

<http://www.furbearers.org/>

Fur Takers of America

<http://www.furtakersofamerica.com/>

Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management

<http://icwdm.org/>

N.C. Department of Health and Human Services Rabies Information

<http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/vet.html>

Phone numbers of interest

Big Game Harvest Reporting

(800) I-GOT-ONE

(800) 446-8663

Violations Reporting

(800) 662-7137

(919) 707-0040 (in Raleigh area)

(800)662-7137 (TTY machine for people with hearing disabilities)

Regulation Information

(919) 707-0030

License Information

(919) 707-0391

License Purchases by credit card

(888) 2HUNTFISH

(888) 248-6834

Wildlife Management Division

(919) 707-0050

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