



## Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of the North Carolina Furbearer Management Newsletter!

The information in this newsletter 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 (NCWRC) monitor furbearer harvest levels and track trends in the furbearer populations.

## Trapping information available on-line!

In an effort to better inform trappers, the NCWRC has a section on their website dedicated to trapping. The address is: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/>  
On this web page you will find information on:

- Trapping Regulations and local laws on Foxes
- Trapper Education Opportunities
- Selling your Fur
- Surveys and Reports
- Furbearer Management and Furbearer Species Information
- Trapping Best Management Practices (BMPs)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ❖ Why can't I trap foxes in my county?

- The North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) elected to classify foxes only as game animals rather than game and furbearers as bobcat, opossum and raccoon are designated. This classification means that foxes cannot be taken by trapping during regular furbearer trapping seasons.
- The General Assembly has the authority to allow fox trapping in a county through local law.



### ❖ Can coyotes be trapped only where there is a local fox trapping season?

- Coyotes can be trapped during the furbearer trapping season and during any local fox trapping season.
- If your county does not have a local fox trapping season, you can still trap coyotes during the furbearer trapping season.

### ❖ When can I use a Collarum™-type trap?

- The Collarum™-type trap can be used only on coyotes and only under a depredation permit.
- All non-targets must be released.
- Users of the Collarum™ trap must fill out forms provided by the WRC within 30 days to report on efficiency and effectiveness of the trap.



### ❖ Can I sell live furbearers, such as bobcats and raccoons?

- No. You can only sell live foxes and coyotes and you can only sell them to a licensed fox hunting preserve.



## River Otter Research: How you can help!

During the 1990's, licensed trappers assisted the NCWRC in successfully restoring river otters to western North Carolina. However, no studies have been conducted to measure certain population parameters of the restored mountain population and the established populations in the coast and piedmont.



Today, the NCWRC and North Carolina State University (NCSU) are conducting a study of reproductive parameters and age structure in the otter populations across North Carolina.

### *2009-10 Collection Results:*

Total otters sampled: 74

Total females: 20

- ~35% of females were pregnant
- ~10% of females had never bred

Total males: 54

Average weight: 19.6 lbs

Average Nose→Tail length: 43 in

Average Age: 2 yrs (range: 0-11 years)

9% of samples caught in December

34% of samples caught in January

57% of samples caught in February

Average Nose→Rump length: 26.5 in

Identifiable foods consisted of fish, crayfish, and an occasional amphibian (no small mammals or birds were identified)

We are continuing this study throughout the 2011-12 trapping season. Therefore, we are asking for your help in providing otter carcasses so that we can collect the necessary biological samples (e.g., reproductive tract and teeth) for this important research to continue.

To find out how to assist, please contact NCSU student, Charles Sanders, at:

E-mail address: [cwsander@ncsu.edu](mailto:cwsander@ncsu.edu)

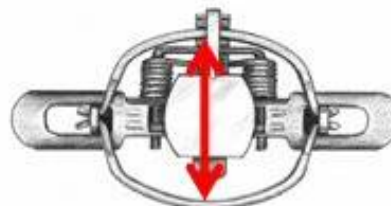
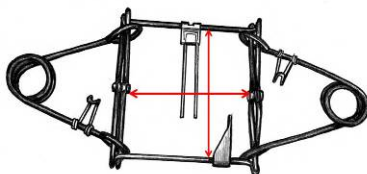
Phone: (919) 896-9519

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## Jaw Spread and Trap Chain Measurement Guide

### 1) How to measure the jaw spread of a trap:

Jaw spread is measured from the inside jaw to the opposite inside jaw of the trap (see pictures below).



### 2) How to measure the trap chain length:

Measure the trap chain/cable from the anchor point (ground level) to the base of the trap.

## Trapper Education Opportunities

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) has started to offer free Trapper Education Courses. NCWRC plans to offer courses throughout the year in several wildlife districts.

For more information on future trapper education courses contact:

David Denton

Phone: (252) 482-7105

E-mail: [d1huntersafety@inteliport.com](mailto:d1huntersafety@inteliport.com)



Or visit our website at: [http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/Trap\\_Education.htm](http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/Trap_Education.htm)

The North Carolina Trappers Association (NCTA) offers advanced trapper educational opportunities for both new and experienced trappers.

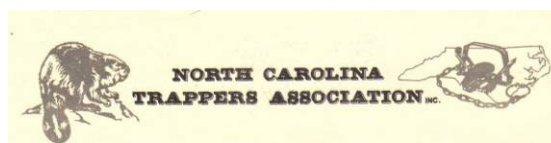
For more information contact:

Todd Menke, NCTA Education Coordinator

2663 Tar River Rd.

Creedmoor, NC 27522

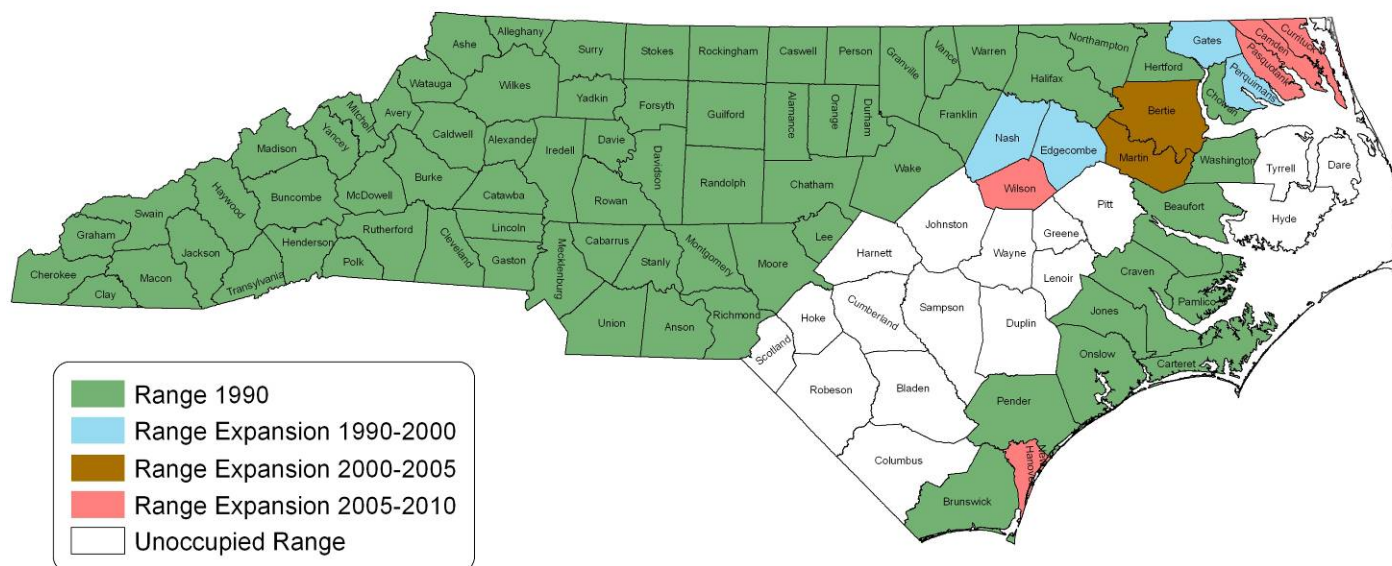
E-mail: [minkster@netzero.net](mailto:minkster@netzero.net)



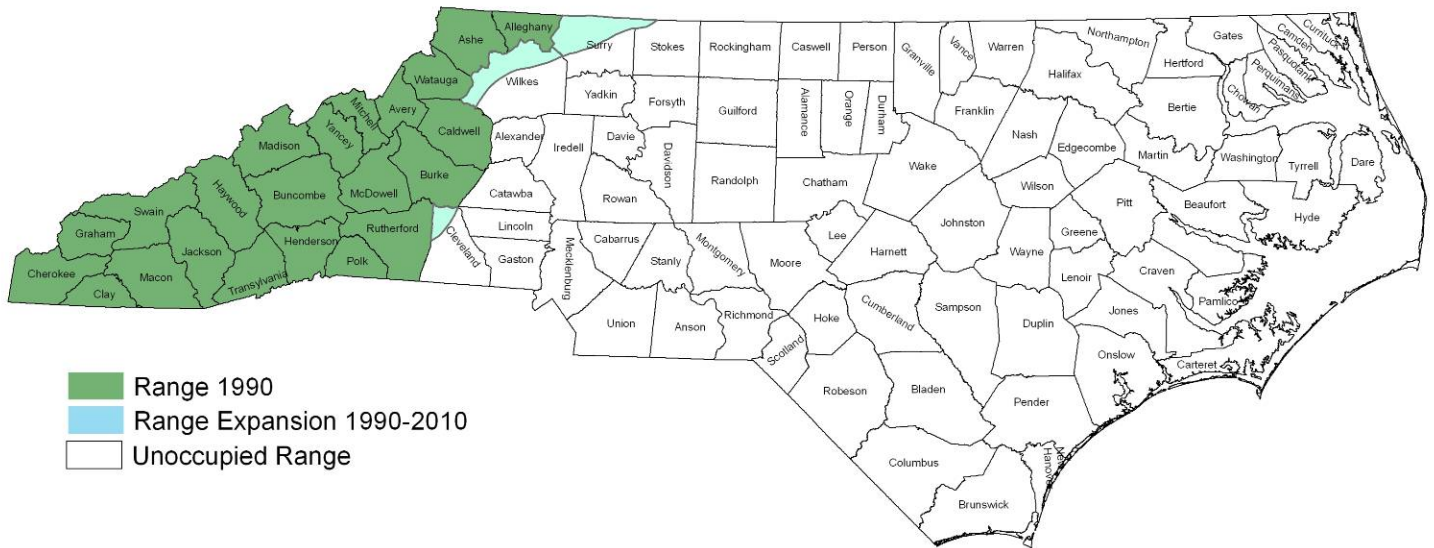
Phone: (919) 528-9063

## 2010 update to Furbearer Range Maps

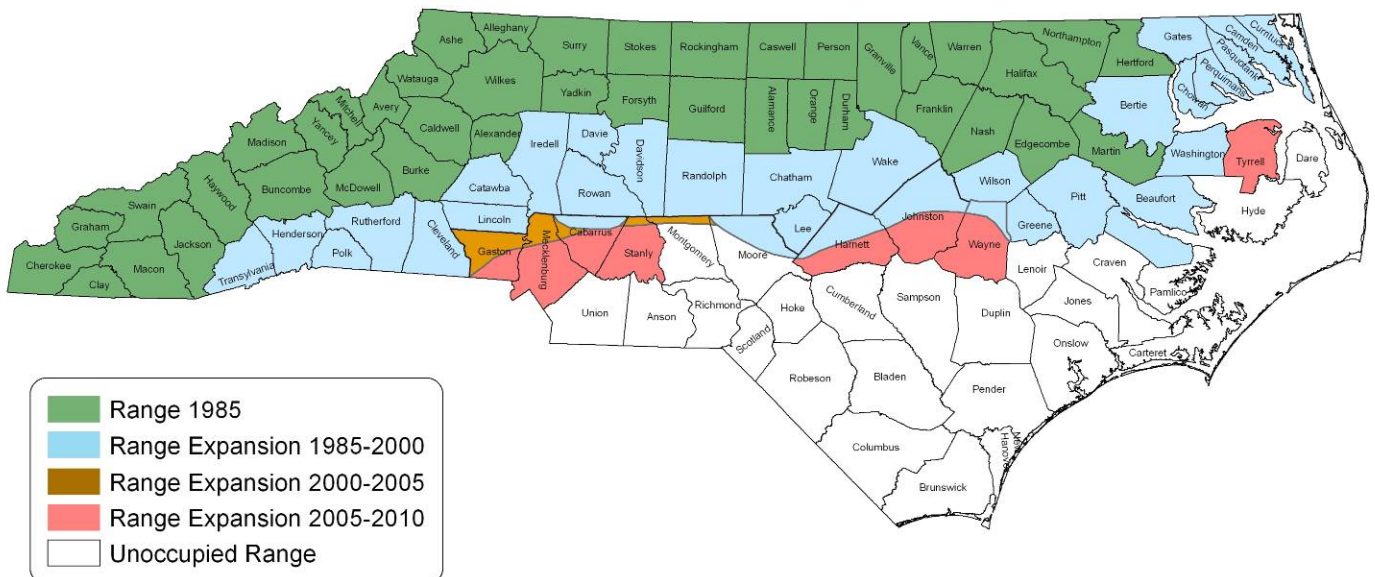
### North Carolina Striped Skunk Range Expansion 1990-2010



## North Carolina Spotted Skunk Range 1990-2010

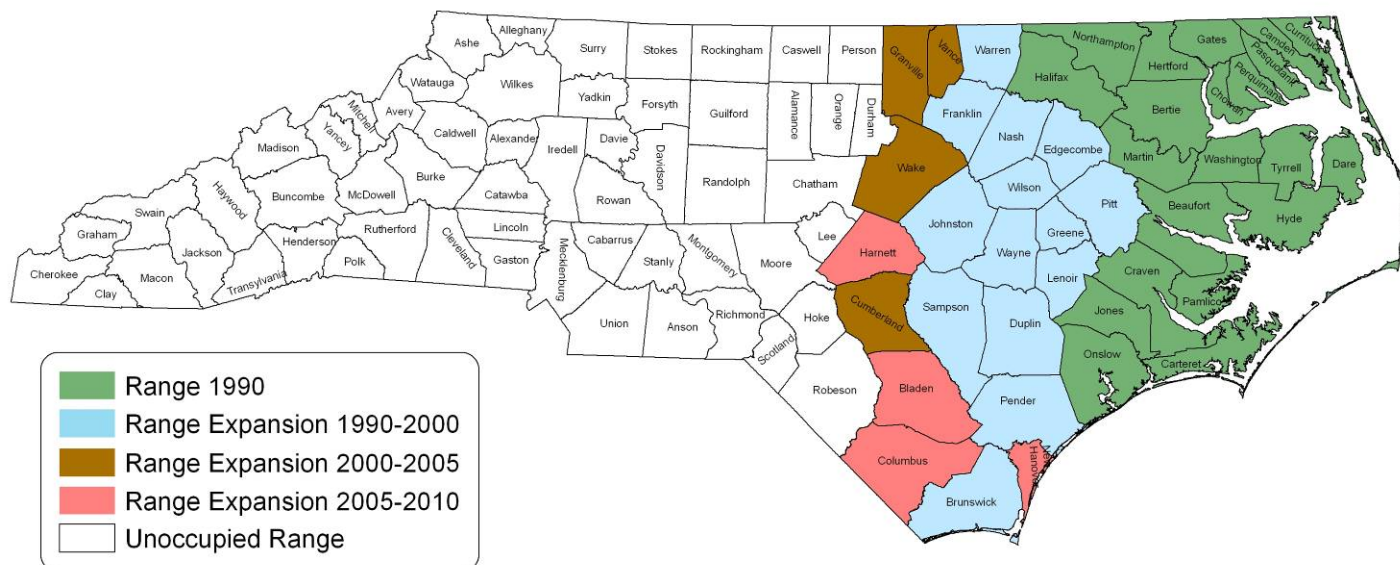


## North Carolina Groundhog Range Expansion 1985-2010



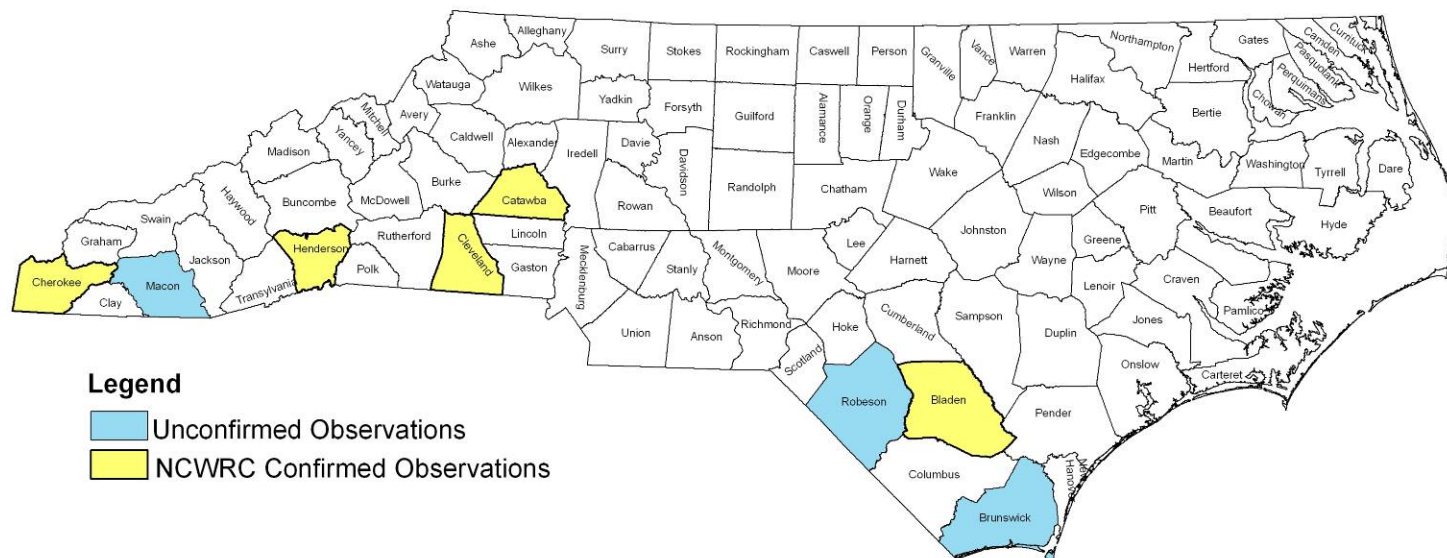


# North Carolina Nutria Range Expansion 1990-2010



# North Carolina Armadillo Observations

## Updated 2010

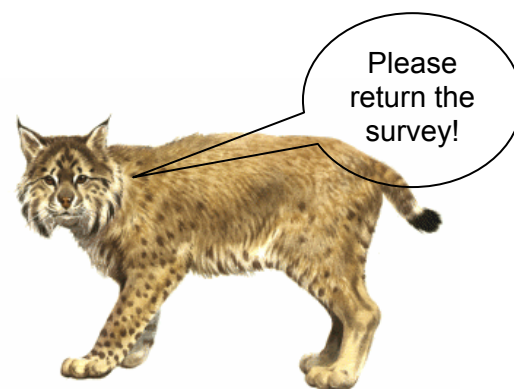


## Monitoring Furbearer Populations

In order for the NCWRC to monitor the furbearer harvest, we have created an anonymous voluntary trapper harvest mail survey. Using information from the surveys, coupled with reports from licensed fur dealers, the NCWRC can monitor trends in trapper harvest and effort, which often mirrors trends in the furbearer population. The data gained from these surveys also helps us make management decisions and address questions we receive from sportsmen, the media and the general public.

### How you can help!

If you receive a furbearer harvest survey in the mail, please take the time to fill it out as accurately as possible and return it promptly.



### Landowner Assistance List

These surveys also provide you with the opportunity to sign up to be on the landowner assistance list, which connects landowners needing help with trappers during the trapping season.

Thank you for your participation!

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## Voluntary Trapper Harvest Mail Survey Results

The response rate for the trapper harvest mail survey has varied over the years, but has steadily increased since 2002-2003 (Table 1). The response rate for the 2009-2010 mail survey was 60%, of which 44% of respondents reported that they did not trap during the trapping season.

**Table 1. Data from the trapper harvest mail survey, 2002-03 through 2009-10.**

Survey Year	# of licensed trappers	Response Rate	% respondents who did not trap
2002-03	1,138	39%	34%
2003-04	1,286	54%	23%
2004-05	1,547	50%	23%
2005-06	1,744	58%	19%
2006-07	1,867	63%	27%
2007-08	2,027	61%	33%
2008-09	2,233	59%	32%
2009-10	2,120	60%	44%

The 2009-10 furbearer harvest level was lower than that seen during the prior trapping season, primarily due to decreased trapping activity. There were declines in the harvest of all furbearer species, except coyotes; the coyote harvest increased 20%. The table on the following page presents data obtained from the past six trapping seasons

	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009		2009-10	
Species	Harvest	Prices	Harvest	Prices	Harvest	Prices	Harvest	Prices	Harvest	Prices	Harvest	Prices
 Beaver	11,968	\$8.13	13,097	\$7.00	11,458	\$11.00	9,919	\$16.25	8,370	\$8.80	7,335	\$8.39
 Mink	327	\$7.09	432	\$8.93	328	\$8.21	331	\$9.30	193	\$5.87	162	\$8.95
 Muskrat	5,722	\$2.34	6,440	\$2.45	7,412	\$3.77	3,543	\$3.15	2,724	\$2.45	1,960	\$4.42
 Nutria	1,867	\$2.25	3,115	\$1.25	3,720	N/A	2,436	\$2.13	2,173	\$0.61	1,510	N/A
 Otter	3,104	\$83.75	3,675	\$92.39	1,751	\$33.13	1,457	\$23.25	1,341	\$26.21	1,214	\$34.48
 Bobcat	678	\$18.50	690	\$20.14	791	\$23.43	1,045	\$28.12	993	\$19.01	775	\$22.14
 Coyote	593	N/A	567	\$12.25	847	\$11.00	1,434	\$18.12	1,747	\$8.94	2,092	\$7.45
 Gray Fox	2,770	\$10.00	2,392	\$10.00	3,020	\$25.83	5,560	\$26.46	4,212	\$16.00	3,194	\$13.53
 Red Fox	631	\$13.00	613	\$13.67	695	\$13.00	1,180	\$14.83	838	\$9.60	731	\$12.96
 Opossum	3,457	\$1.00	4,101	\$1.00	4,317	\$1.69	6,393	\$2.55	4,481	\$1.53	3,841	\$0.98
 Raccoon	6,156	\$5.96	5,281	\$5.00	5,967	\$6.56	6,712	\$10.75	7,307	\$5.73	5,011	\$6.23
 Skunk	226	\$1.00	172	\$2.00	186	N/A	641	N/A	354	\$2.77	324	\$1.11
 Weasel	13	\$1.00	33	\$1.00	33	N/A	0	\$6.12	0	N/A	1	\$1.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,512</b>		<b>40,608</b>		<b>40,525</b>		<b>40,651</b>		<b>34,733</b>		<b>28,148</b>	

**2009-2010 reported harvest from respondents to the voluntary trapper mail survey.**

	Furbearer Management Region		
	Mountain	Piedmont	Coastal Plains
Beaver	327	1,785	5,116
Mink	47	34	81
Muskrat	308	540	1,092
Nutria	0	116	1,389
Otter	70	278	863
Bobcat	95	135	541
Coyote	330	743	721
Gray Fox	74	1,428	1,624
Red Fox	34	323	363
Opossum	255	1,051	2,499
Raccoon	662	1,461	2,838
Weasel	1	0	0
Skunk	59	179	87

**Total number of North Carolina trapping licenses sold in each county for 2009-2010 trapping season.**

