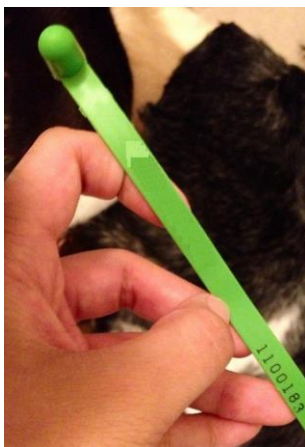




Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of the North Carolina Furbearer Management Newsletter!

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.

Regulation change regarding Tagging Requirements for the 2015-16 Season



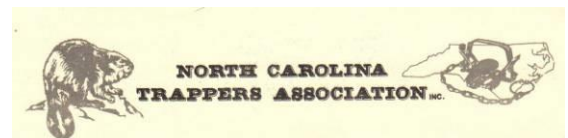
A regulation change was approved by the NCWRC on March 5, 2015 that will increase the number of days trappers and hunters have to tag bobcats, foxes, and otters.

The amended rule, which will take effect for the upcoming 2015-2016 trapping season, will allow a person to tag bobcat, fox and otter up to 30 days after the close of the applicable season. Prior to this change in the regulation, a person had to tag bobcat, fox, and otter within 10 days.

The NCWRC also clarified the time frame for when we will mail tags to an individual. No tags will be shipped from our agency to a person after 23 consecutive days from the close of the applicable season.

Trapper Education Opportunities

The North Carolina Trappers Association, in cooperation with the NCWRC, offers free Basic Trapper Education Courses. Courses are often offered throughout the year in several wildlife districts.



A 3-day Advanced Trapper Educational Course is also offered. The next advanced course is May 15-17, 2015 at the Millstone 4-H camp near Ellerbee, NC.



For more information on trapper education courses contact:

Todd Menke, NCTA Education Coordinator

2663 Tar River Rd.

Creedmoor, NC 27522

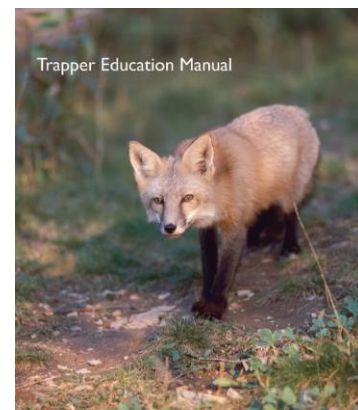
E-mail: minkster1971@gmail.com

Phone: (919) 528-9063

You can also download a [Trapper Educational Manual](#) on the website!

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/LearnResources.aspx>

and click on "Trapper Education"



“Why can’t I trap foxes in my county?”

The answer is that our agency has **no** authority to allow fox trapping in a county.

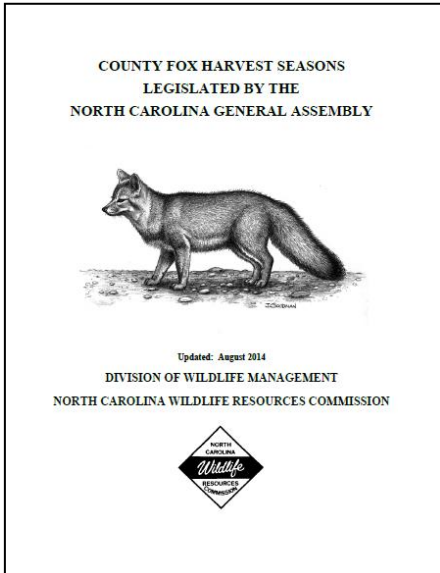
Only the General Assembly has the authority to allow fox trapping in a county through passage of a local law.

As of March 2015, the General Assembly was considering 3 local bills that would provide fox trapping opportunities in:

- Carteret County
- Wilkes County
- New Hanover County

If any of these bills are approved, it will be reflected in our annual Fox Law Publication that lists all counties with a trapping and/or hunting season.

For information on current fox hunting and trapping seasons in North Carolina go to: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/> and download our publication on fox hunting and trapping seasons.



The Wildlife Damage Control Agent (WDCA) Program

The WDCA program allows trained and certified individuals to issue wildlife depredation permits to landowners with wildlife damage problems.

Depredation permits are needed to trap and lethally control wildlife outside the regulated trapping season. Certified WDCAs are authorized to issue permits for controlling certain wildlife species that are causing property damage.

Training:

In order to become a WDCA, an individual must complete a certification course covering laws, rules, health considerations, and humane handling techniques. In addition, the individual must pass a written examination. Agents are subject to background checks prior to certification.



Photo Credit: AAAnimal Control

Contact us at 919-707-0061 to sign up!

Early Registration Due Date	Class Registration Deadline	WDCA Class Date
Jan 1, 2015	Feb 1, 2015	March 11-12, 2015 (Wednesday-Thursday)
Jan 1, 2015	Feb 1, 2015	March 24-25, 2015 (Tuesday-Wednesday)
Apr 1, 2015	May 1, 2015	June 10-11, 2015 (Wednesday-Thursday)
Aug 1, 2015	Sept 1, 2015	Oct 14-15, 2015 (Wednesday-Thursday)

Monitoring Furbearer Populations

In order for the NCWRC to monitor the furbearer harvest, we have created a confidential 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.



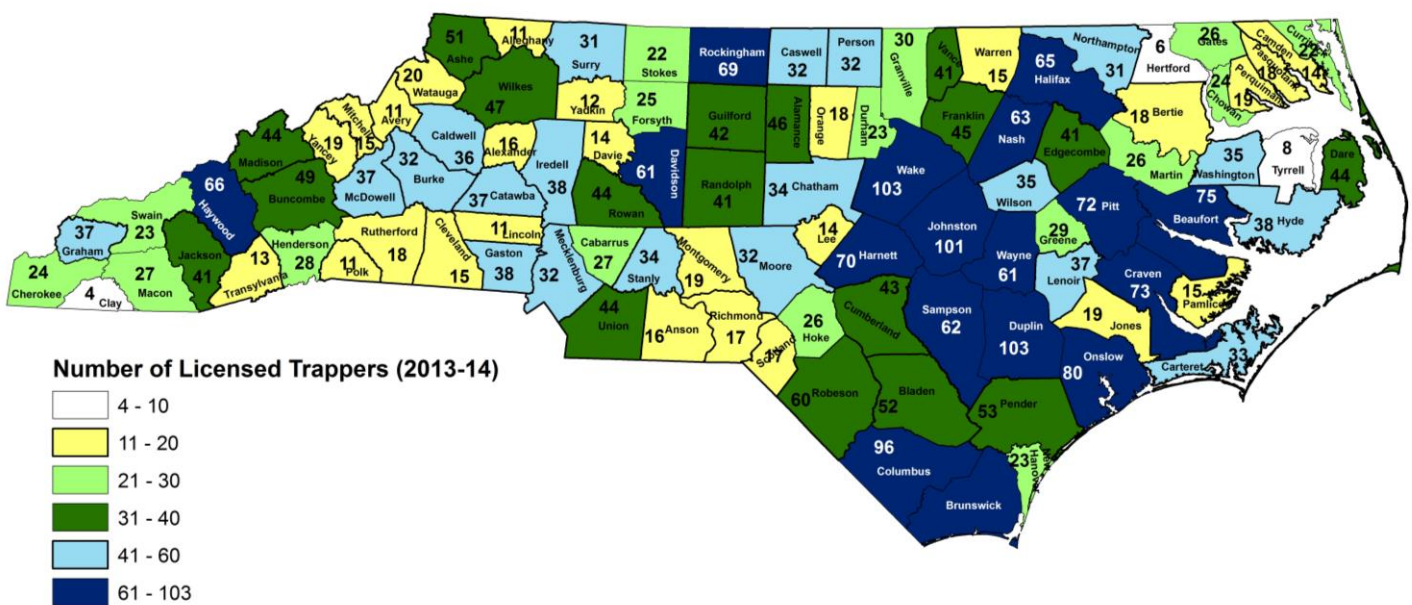
Please return the survey!

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.

2013-2014 Trapping License Sales

The map below shows the number of residents, by county, who purchased a trapping license for the 2013-2014 trapping season. The highest number of licensed trappers resided in Duplin, Johnston and Wake counties (103 trappers in each county), followed by Columbus County (96 trappers) and Onslow County (80 trappers). The lowest number of licensed trappers resided in Clay (4 trappers) and Hertford counties (6 trappers).



Rabies Statistics

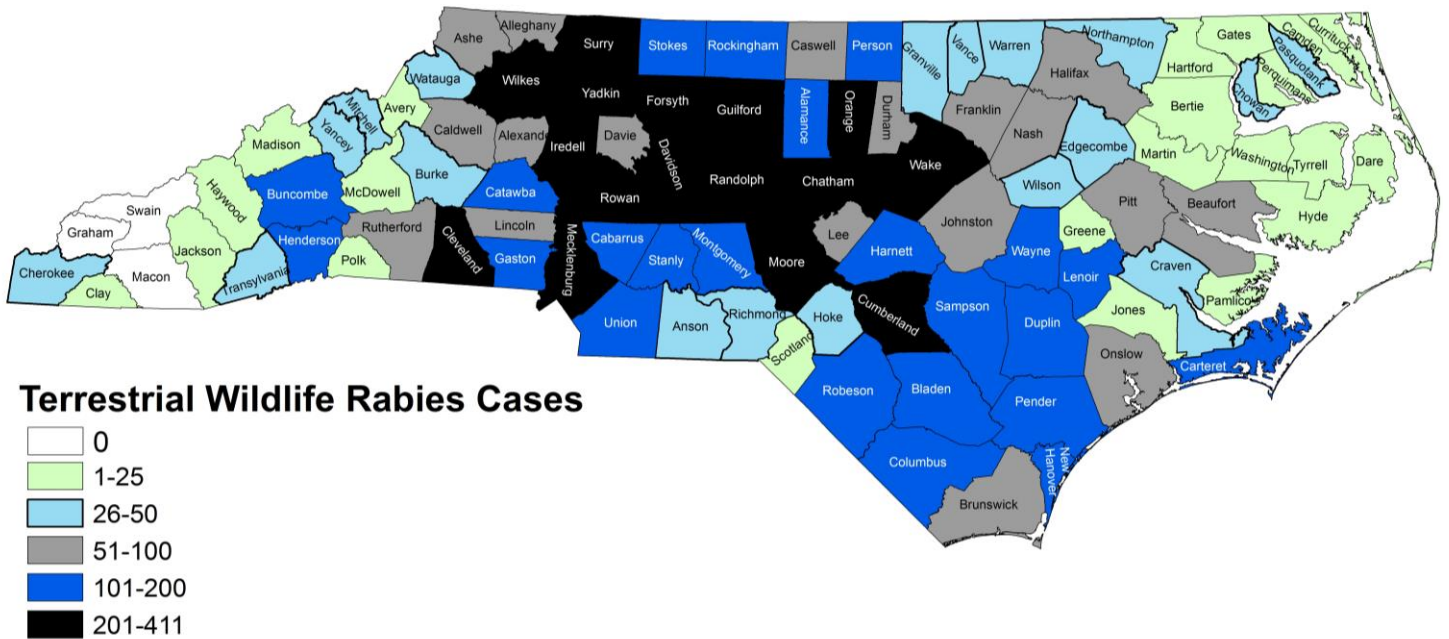


Figure 1. Number of positive rabies cases in terrestrial wildlife by county from 1990-2014. No positive terrestrial wildlife rabies cases in Graham, Macon and Swain counties.

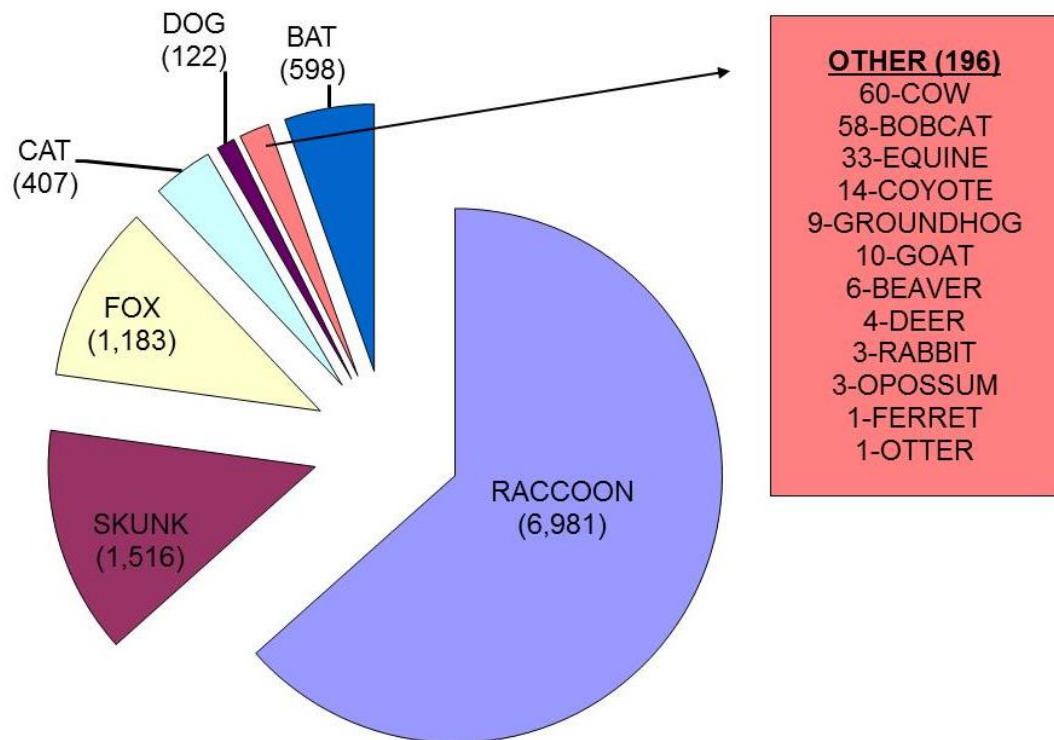


Figure 2. Number of positive rabies cases by species from 1990-2014.

Voluntary Trapper Harvest Mail Survey Results

The response rate for the 2013-2014 mail survey was 51%, of which 48% of respondents reported that they did not trap during the trapping season (Table 1).

Table 1. Data from the trapper harvest mail survey, 2002-03 through 2013-14.

Survey Year	# of licensed trappers	Response Rate	% respondents who did not trap
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%
2010-11	2,186	57%	36%
2011-12	2,638	54%	37%
2012-13	3,125	54%	49%
2013-14	3,695	51%	48%

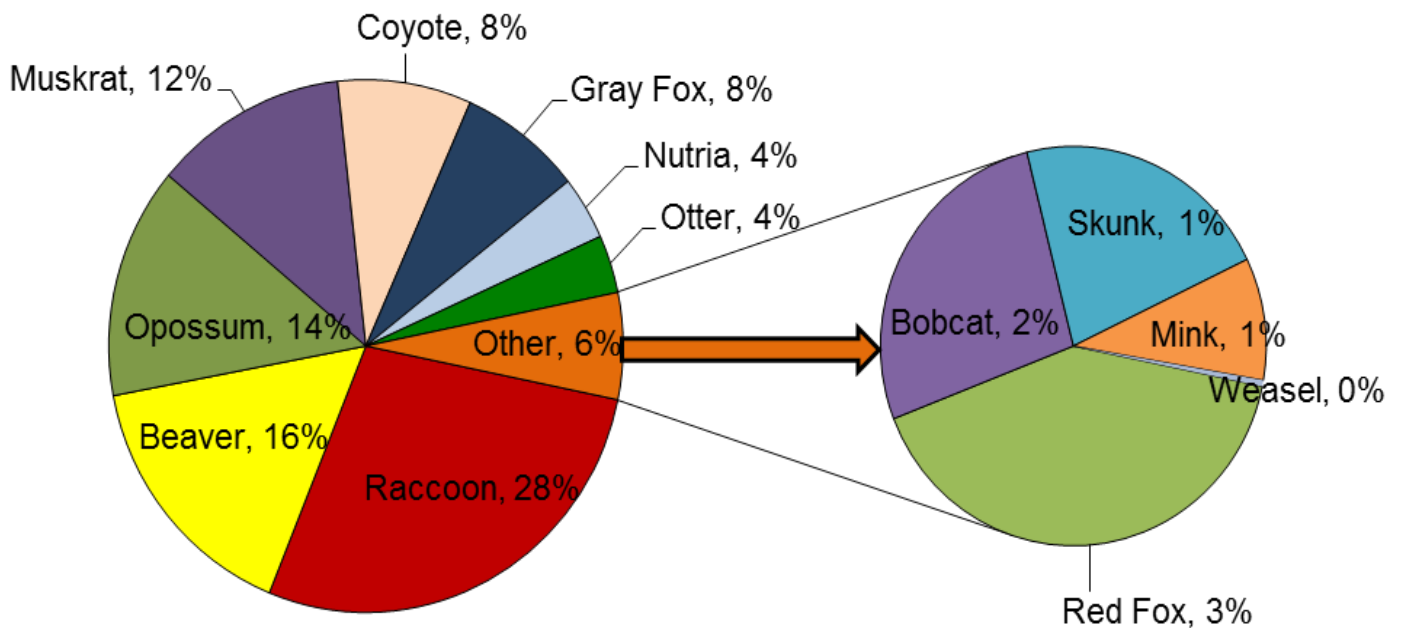



Figure 3. The wildlife species composition of the 2013-14 trapper harvest based on estimates from the voluntary trapper harvest survey.

Overall, the 2013-14 furbearer harvest level was 16% higher than that seen during the prior trapping season, primarily due to the 18% increase in the number of licensed trappers. The table below presents data obtained from the past four trapping seasons.

Table 2. Estimated trapper harvest from the 2010-11 trapping season through the 2013-14 trapping season, based on voluntary trapper harvest surveys.

Species	2010-11		2011-12		2012-2013		2013-14	
	Harvest	Prices	Harvest	Prices	Harvest	Prices	Harvest	Prices
 Beaver	12,701	\$13.45	15,564	\$18.17	11,393	\$24.22	13,138	\$12.64
 Mink	361	\$15.82	410	\$18.29	444	\$17.90	530	\$15.38
 Muskrat	6,168	\$9.87	6,497	\$7.73	8,933	\$12.45	10,064	\$10.36
 Nutria	1,785	\$1.50	2,364	N/A	2,167	N/A	3,194	N/A
 Otter	2,778	\$78.34	3,155	\$56.71	2,787	\$92.48	2,908	\$56.09
 Bobcat	1,442	\$50.90	1,445	\$55.99	1,484	\$67.57	1,448	\$66.00
 Coyote	4,136	\$11.37	5,393	\$13.77	5,419	\$19.95	6,951	\$16.42
 Gray Fox	5,809	\$15.70	7,209	\$24.37	6,827	\$32.20	6,410	\$22.79
 Red Fox	1,271	\$21.06	1,682	\$37.20	1,768	\$49.39	2,186	\$27.91
 Opossum	7,568	\$0.61	9,483	\$0.75	12,320	\$3.08	11,630	\$1.31
 Raccoon	10,169	\$6.90	14,991	\$6.70	16,827	\$12.83	23,075	\$8.50
 Skunk	599	\$1.04	779	\$1.26	782	\$3.56	1,163	\$3.48
 Weasel	36	N/A	2	N/A	2	N/A	26	\$0.40
TOTAL	54,823		68,975		71,153		82,722	

North Carolina Hunter Harvest Survey

In addition to the survey we conduct of licensed trappers, the NCWRC conducts a mail survey of licensed hunters to estimate the numbers of hunters for specific game species, hunter effort and hunter harvest.

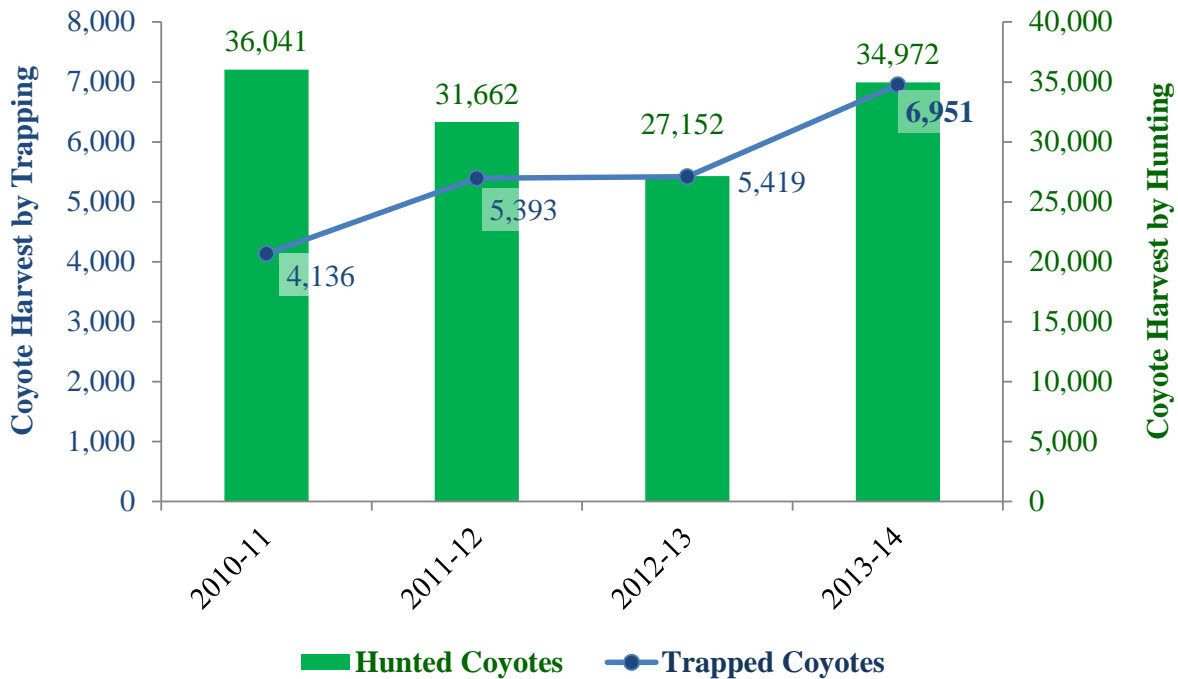


Figure 4. Estimated harvest of coyotes by hunters (green bars) and trappers (blue line).

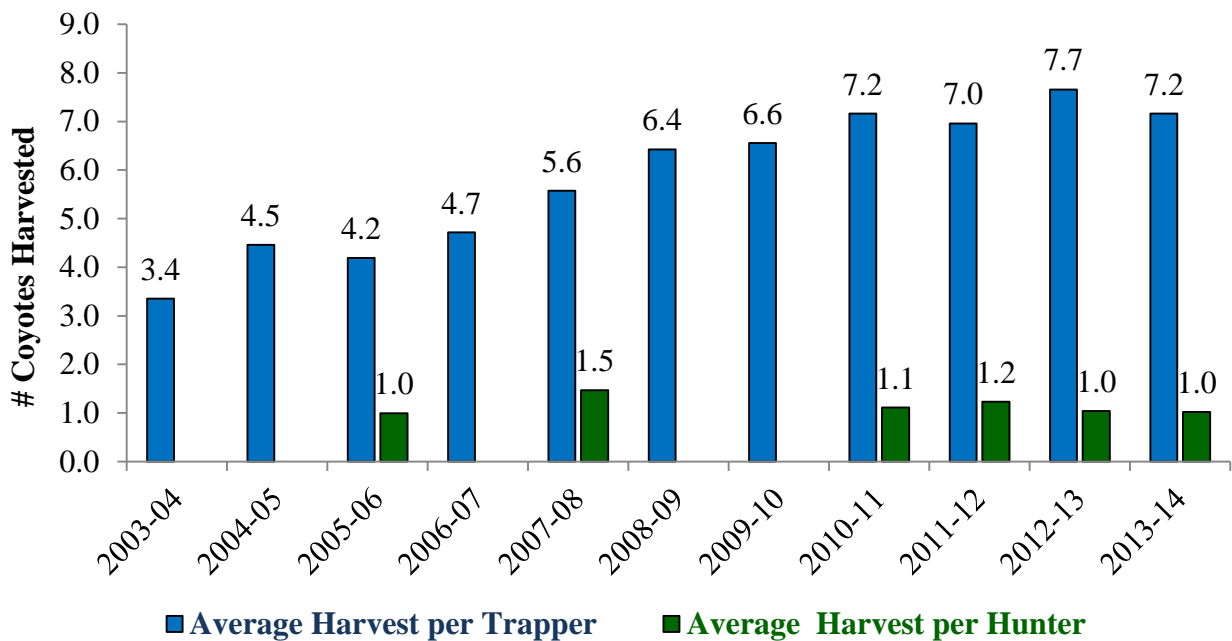


Figure 5. Average number of coyotes harvested by hunters (green bar) and by trappers (blue bar) from 2003 through February 2014.

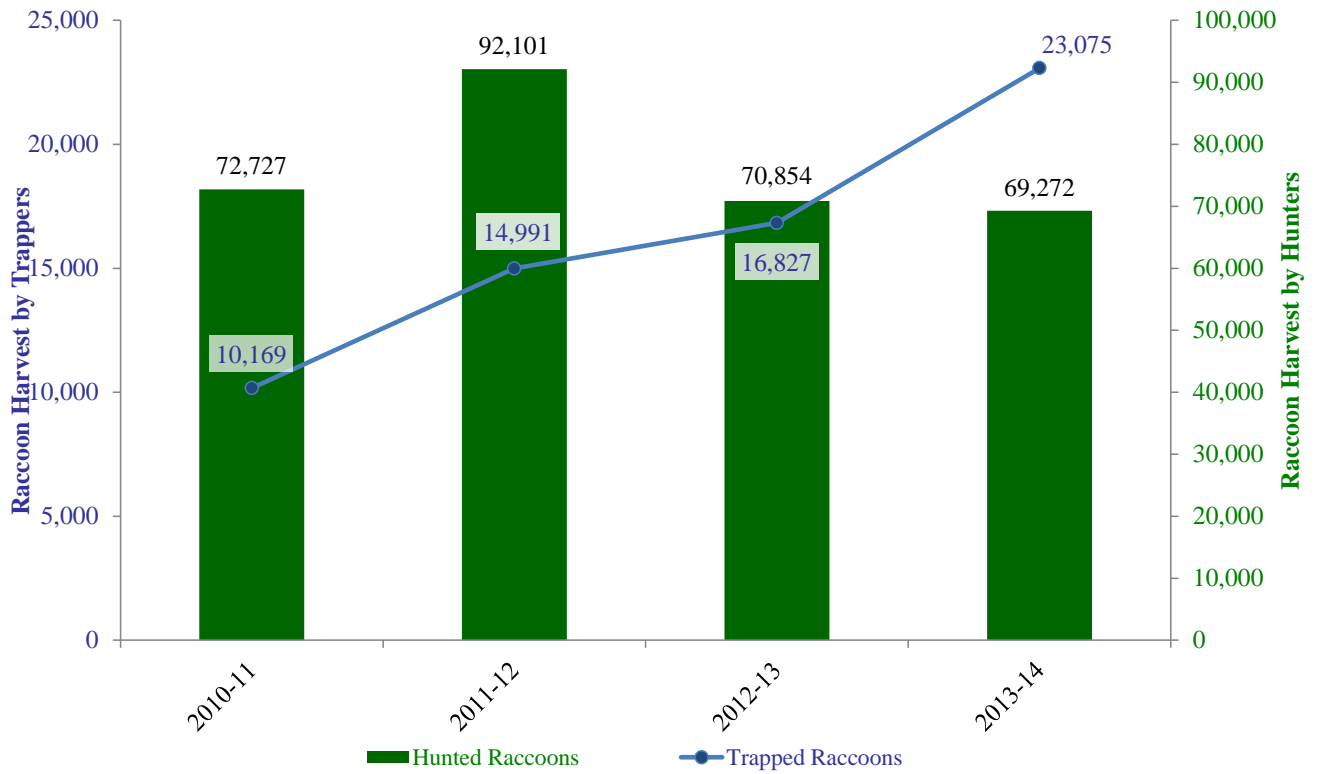


Figure 6. Estimated harvest of raccoons by hunters (green bars) and trappers (blue line).

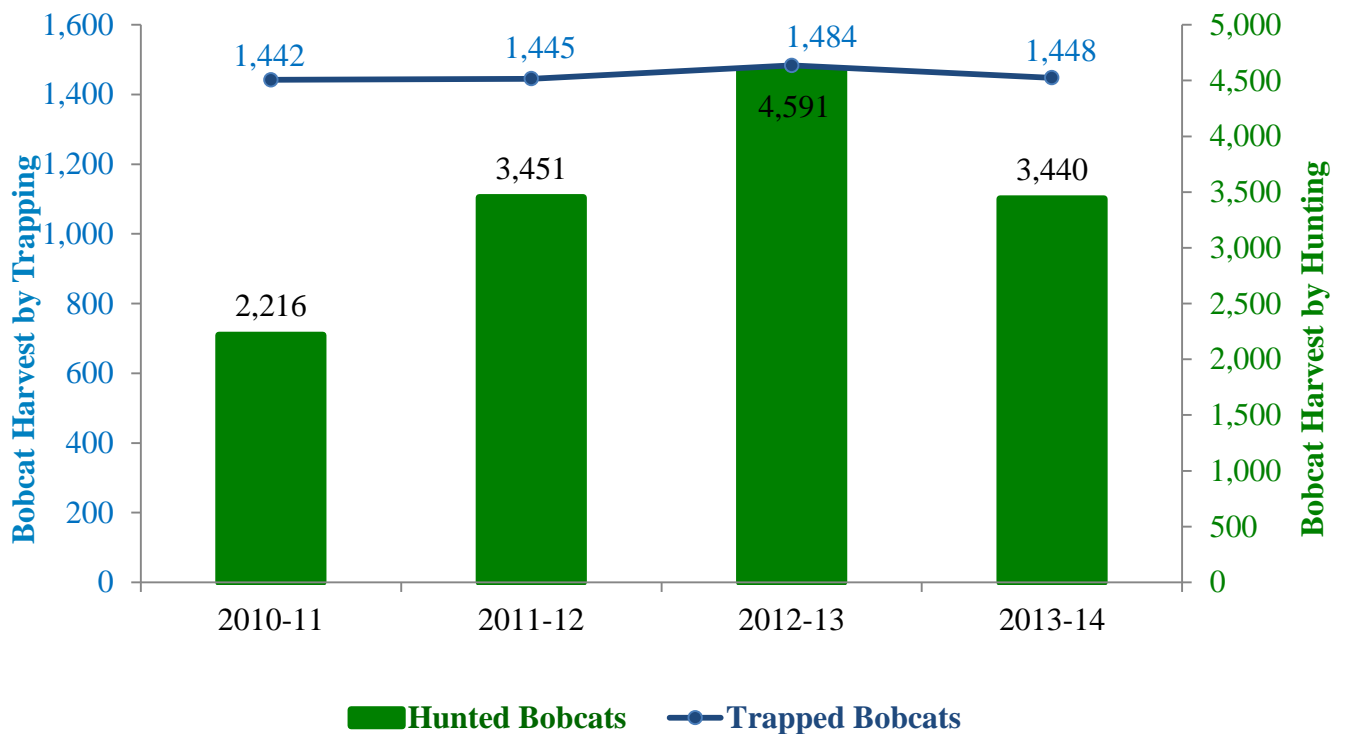


Figure 7. Estimated harvest of bobcats by hunters (green bars) and trappers (blue line).