



Preliminary Season Results from 2013-2014 Furbearer Trapping Season

Information on the harvest of furbearer species taken comes from the voluntary mail survey of licensed trappers and average pelt price is estimated by using information provided by North Carolina Fur Dealers, fur auctions, and NAFA auction results.

Reported Furbearer Trapper Harvest, Average Pelt Prices and Value

Species	Harvest 12-13	Harvest 13-14 ¹	% Change from prior year	Average Pelt Price	Value
Beaver	11,393	13,124	15%	\$12.59	\$165,259
Mink	444	530	19%	\$15.53	\$8,229
Muskrat	8,933	10,068	13%	\$10.39	\$104,594
Nutria	2,167	3,198	48%	N/A	N/A
Otter	2,787	2,909	4%	\$56.46	\$164,214
Bobcat	1,484	1,449	-2%	\$66.30	\$96,056
Coyote	5,419	6,957	28%	\$16.42	\$114,256
Gray Fox	6,827	6,418	-6%	\$22.82	\$146,456
Red Fox	1,768	2,189	24%	\$27.92	\$61,108
Opossum	12,320	11,639	-6%	\$1.32	\$15,350
Raccoon	16,827	23,101	37%	\$8.70	\$201,006
Skunk	782	1,165	49%	\$3.55	\$4,132
Weasel	2	26	1574%	\$0.40	\$10
TOTALS	71,152	82,772	16%	--	\$1,080,669

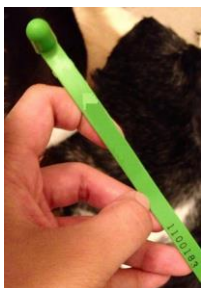
¹ Updated as of September 2014. Final harvest figures may change as more trapper surveys are received.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ☒ Where can I find information on selling furs in North Carolina?
 - We have a “Selling Fur” section on our website. It has information on fur dealers, fur pick-ups, and fur auctions.
 - Go to www.ncwildlife.org/trapping and click on the “Learn/Resources” link, then click on “Selling Fur”



- ☒ How late can I purchase bobcat and otter CITES tags?



- All bobcat and otter fur must be tagged within 10 days of the close of the season.
- Because the WRC cannot guarantee that tags will arrive to you in time to meet tagging requirements, no tags will be shipped from the WRC after 7 days from the close of the season.
- Call 888-248-6834 to purchase tags by telephone.

Public Hearings Scheduled!

The Commission has been charged with managing North Carolina’s wildlife resources since 1947. Setting forth rules is one means by which we manage those resources to serve the recreational and economic interests of the state’s citizens. We rely on the public’s cooperation and assistance in this endeavor. Thus, we urge you to participate in these public hearings and to submit your opinions, either verbally or in writing, to the staff of the Commission.

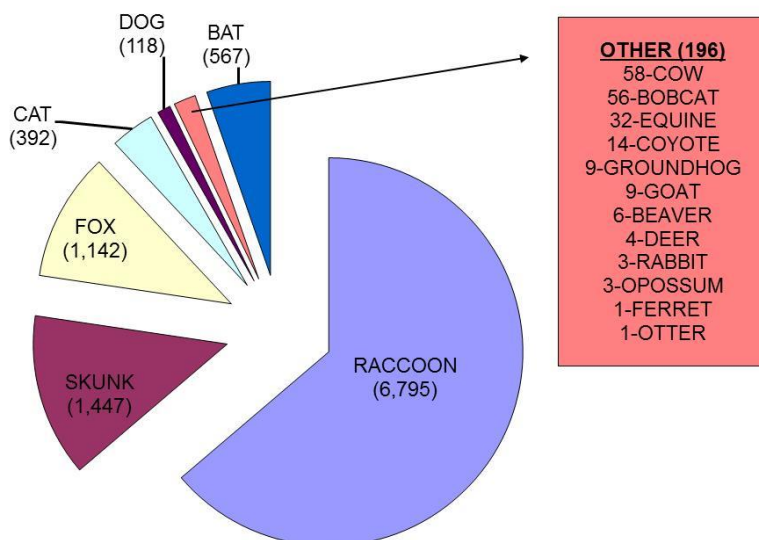
If you can’t make the public hearing, you can e-mail your comments on proposed regulations to: regulations@ncwildlife.org

Date	District	City	Location
January 6, 2015	4	Dublin	Bladen Community College
January 7, 2015	5	Graham	Courthouse
January 8, 2015	6	Norwood	South Stanly High School
January 13, 2015	9	Murphy	Tri-County Community College
January 14, 2015	8	Morganton	Municipal Auditorium
January 15, 2015	7	Wilkesboro	The Walker Center, Wilkes Community College
January 20, 2015	1	Edenton	Swain Auditorium
January 21, 2015	2	New Bern	Courthouse
January 22, 2015	3	Smithfield	Johnston Community College

Rabies information

During 2013, positive rabies results were obtained from 204 raccoons, 55 skunks, and 62 foxes. The total number of terrestrial rabies cases (n=321) was slightly lower than the number of cases detected during 2012 (n=360).

Positive Rabies Cases in North Carolina 1990-2013



Please consider becoming a Furbearer Cooperator by providing us your Otter Carcasses and Bobcat Skulls

Why do we need otter carcasses?

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 on the otter populations across North Carolina.

We also hope to be able to use the age and sex information to estimate the otter population in North Carolina.

How many otters do you need?

In order to be able to estimate the population, we estimate we will need 600 carcasses, ideally 200 from each furbearer region.



Why do we need bobcat skulls?

We actually need the bobcat skull, lower jaw, or lower canine, so that we can age the bobcat.

The data we collect from this project will be beneficial in determining the sex and age distribution of bobcats in N.C. and help us estimate the population. Projects such as these are important, as they help us monitor bobcat populations and improve our knowledge of N.C. furbearers

How many bobcats do you need? In order to be able to estimate the population, we estimate we will need 300 bobcats, ideally 100 from each furbearer region.



We feel information from both these projects will help us maintain trapping for future generations!

Contacts for this project are:

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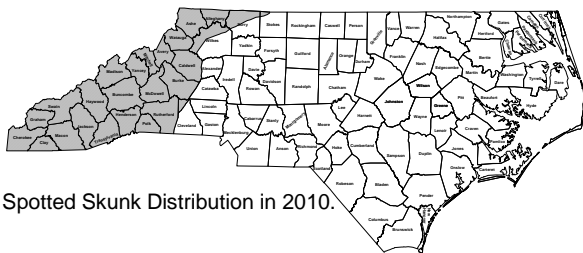
Have you seen a Spotted Skunk? We would like to know!

There is little known about the Eastern Spotted Skunk in North Carolina, including its current population status and current distribution.



Our furbearer team will be starting a survey for spotted skunk in winter 2015. This survey will join other states in the southeast that are making efforts to learn more about this unique animal. The spotted skunk even has a blog: <http://easternspottedskunk.blogspot.com/>

If you think you harvested an Eastern Spotted Skunk in western North Carolina, please let us know about it! It is legal to harvest an Eastern Spotted Skunk. But we hear very few reports about Eastern Spotted Skunks and we are interested in their current distribution.



Spotted Skunk Distribution in 2010.

The Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*) is one of two species of skunk that inhabit North Carolina. The Eastern Spotted Skunk inhabits western North Carolina (see map) and is a small, slender animal weighing about 1-4 pound. It is smaller than the more common Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). The Spotted Skunk's fur is jet black with 4 to 6 horizontal white stripes on the neck and shoulders (see pictures).

The main way to tell the difference between a Spotted Skunk and a Striped Skunk is that the head of the Striped Skunk possesses a white inverted triangular patch above the nose (see arrow in picture below).



If you think you harvested a spotted skunk in western Carolina, please contact the Furbearer Biologist:

Colleen Olfenbuttel
Furbearer Biologist

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