



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 in effect for the 2010-11 furbearer harvest season

- Allow armadillos to be hunted all year and trapped during the regulated furbearer trapping season.
- Foxes and coyotes cannot be sold alive under a depredation permit. Licensed trappers may sell foxes and coyotes to a licensed controlled fox hunting preserves during the regulated trapping season and any local fox trapping season.

Fox trapping opportunities

Currently, only the North Carolina General Assembly holds the authority to allow fox trapping within a county.



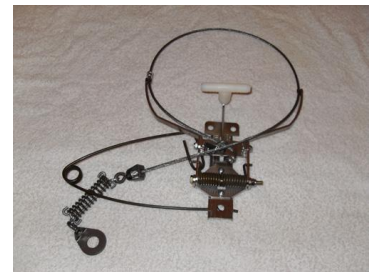
For information on current fox hunting and trapping seasons in North Carolina go to: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/> and click on "Trapping Regulations"

Collarum™ Trap Approved by the NC General Assembly

During the 2010 short session of the North Carolina General Assembly, the legislators amended a law making it lawful to use the Collarum™ trap, and similar traps approved by the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC), to trap only coyotes and only under a depredation permit. This law becomes effective October 1, 2010.

The WRC has not approved any similar traps, thus the Collarum™ trap (www.collarum.com) is the only legal, non-lethal snare that can be used on coyotes under a depredation permit. All non-targets captured must be released.

The legislators also required that depredation permittees that use the Collarum™ trap must report on the trap's efficiency and effectiveness to the WRC. Forms that meet this reporting requirement will be available on the WRC website (www.ncwildlife.org/trapping).



The WRC is currently considering regulations that would define a Collarum™-type trap and would regulate how it is set. If these proposed regulations are approved, they will go into effect January 2011. Please visit our website for updates on the Collarum™ trap.

Until the proposed rules are approved, during the time period from October 1 to January 1 a person using a "power-activated snare that is activated when the trigger is pulled and that is designed to capture and restrain the animal by a cable around the neck" must use the trap specified in the statute: the patented Collarum™ trap.

River Otter Research: How you can help!

During the 1990's, licensed trappers assisted the NCWRC in restoring river otters to western North Carolina.

River otters are now successfully restored throughout North Carolina, and with that success, the NCWRC and North Carolina State University (NCSU) are interested in learning more about otter reproductive parameters and the age structure of the population in all three furbearer management regions.



You can assist by letting us take biological samples, such as the reproductive tract and teeth, from any river otter you harvest during the next trapping season (2010-11).

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

E-mail address: cwsander@ncsu.edu
charles_w_sanders@yahoo.com

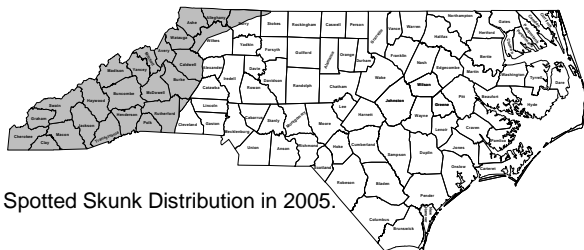
Phone: (919) 896-9519

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

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



■ Spotted Skunk Distribution in 2005.

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).



Spotted Skunk



Striped Skunk

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

Colleen Olfenbittel
 Furbearer Biologist

E-mail address: colleen.olfenbittel@ncwildlife.org
 Phone: (919) 629-2644

Season Results from 2009-2010 Furbearer Trapping 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.

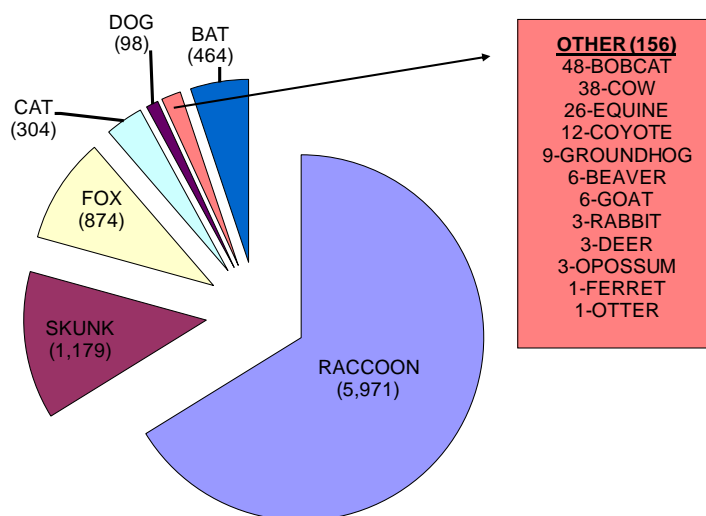
Reported Furbearer Trapper Harvest, Average Pelt Prices and Value

Species	Harvest 08-09	Harvest 09-10	% Change from prior year	Average Pelt Price	Estimated Value
Beaver	8,370	7,468	-11%	\$8.39	\$62,657
Mink	193	193	0%	\$8.95	\$1,727
Muskrat	2,724	2,079	-24%	\$4.42	\$9,189
Nutria	2,173	1,510	-31%	N/A	N/A
Otter	1,341	1,322	-1%	\$34.48	\$45,583
Bobcat	993	803	-19%	\$22.14	\$17,778
Coyote	1,747	2,091	20%	\$7.45	\$15,578
Gray Fox	4,212	3,313	-21%	\$13.53	\$44,825
Red Fox	838	769	-8%	\$12.96	\$9,966
Opossum	4,481	3,841	-14%	\$0.98	\$3,764
Raccoon	7,307	5,442	-26%	\$6.23	\$33,904
Skunk	354	324	-8%	\$1.11	\$360
Weasel	0	1	100%	\$1.50	\$2
TOTALS	34,733	29,156	-16%	--	\$245,332

¹Updated as of September 2010. Final harvest figures may change as more trapper surveys are received.

Rabies information

There were 402 furbearers, comprising of bobcat, coyote, fox, opossum, otter, raccoon and skunk, which tested positive for rabies in 2009. This was 2% decline in the number of rabies-positive furbearers than during the prior reporting year.



Species Composition of North Carolina Rabies Cases, Excluding Bats 1990-2009

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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