Preliminary Results from 2021-2022 Furbearer Trapping Season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>2020-21 Harvest</th>
<th>2021-22 Harvest</th>
<th>% Harvest Change from 20-21 to 21-22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaver</td>
<td>10,156</td>
<td>12,302</td>
<td>+21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mink</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskrat</td>
<td>1,987</td>
<td>2,664</td>
<td>+34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutria</td>
<td>1,462</td>
<td>2,367</td>
<td>+62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter</td>
<td>1,176</td>
<td>2,088</td>
<td>+78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobcat</td>
<td>1,141</td>
<td>1,228</td>
<td>+8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyote</td>
<td>7,312</td>
<td>8,047</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray Fox</td>
<td>1,926</td>
<td>1,796</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Fox</td>
<td>1,778</td>
<td>1,724</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opossum</td>
<td>6,100</td>
<td>5,719</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raccoon</td>
<td>10,299</td>
<td>9,335</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skunk</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weasel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See us at the NC Trappers Association Convention!

Come visit the Furbearer team will be at the 2022 NC Trappers Convention to get information on furbearer species, regulations, fox laws, research, our furbearer cooperator projects, and much, much more!

When: September 23rd and 24th, Building opens at 7:00 a.m.
Where: Smithfield Livestock Auction Arena, 526 County Home Rd., Smithfield NC 27577
For more information: https://www.nctrapper.org/2022-convention

This is one of the largest state trapper’s conventions in the southeast and is open to the public! In addition to our educational table, there will be trapping demonstrations, fur skinning demonstrations, trapping supply vendors, games for kids, and trap setting contests for youths and adults!
Your Furbearer Team!

We are here to serve the wildlife resource and you! Please don’t hesitate to contact us with questions, comments, or to participate in our cooperator programs!

Colleen Olenbuttel, Certified Wildlife Biologist®
Black Bear and Furbearer Biologist
colleen.olenbuttel@ncwildlife.org

Ashley Hobbs
Asst. Black Bear and Furbearer Biologist
ashley.hobbs@ncwildlife.org

Trapper Educational Opportunities

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the North Carolina Trappers Association, offers free Trapper Education Courses. Courses are often offered throughout the year in several wildlife districts. In addition to learning trapping regulations, and the basics of trapping techniques, fur handling, and safety, this course qualifies for reciprocity with other states that have mandatory trapper education in order to purchase a trapping license.

There is one more trapper education course being offered this year:
When: October 15th, 2022, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Where: Germanton, NC 27320
To register for this class, click or go to register-ed.com/events/view/186118

To see what courses are available and to sign up, go to ncwildlife.org/trappered and click “Basic Trapper Education Courses” tab. There you will find a link to sign up. Courses are often added throughout the year, especially in spring and summer. Courses are based on availability of our volunteer trapper educational instructors.
2022-2023 Regulations Digest

Know before you go! Be sure you are aware and understand the rules, regulations, and other guidelines for hunting, trapping and fishing in North Carolina. The 2022-2023 Regulations Digest also has information on game lands and county local laws.

Visit ncwildlife.org/Licensing/Regulations

At this website, you can:
- View the digest on-line;
- Download a pdf version of the Regulations Digest to your computer or smartphone;
- Or request a paper copy by mail.

Trapping Season Reminders

There is a uniform statewide trapping season for all 100 counties from November 1 through last day of February for the following species:
- Armadillo
- Bobcat
- Coyote
- Groundhog
- Mink
- Muskrat
- Nutria*
- Opossum
- Otter
- Raccoon
- Skunk
- Weasel

*There is no closed season on nutria east of I-77.

Beaver: State law establishes the beaver trapping season Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.

Outside the applicable trapping season, animals can only be trapped under a Depredation Permit. This is a free permit obtained from a Wildlife Enforcement Officer, Wildlife District Biologist, or a Certified Wildlife Control Agent.

Resident Lifetime Trapping License

North Carolina residents can purchase a Lifetime Trapping License. The cost is $300 and all proceeds from the sale of this license will go to the Wildlife Endowment Fund.

As of August 15th, 2022, 285 lifetime trapping licenses had been sold since Jan. 1, 2020.

Did you lose your lifetime trapper decal? Contact 888-248-6834 (Customer Service, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) or licenses@ncwildlife.org to learn how to get a replacement decal.
Jaws and Carcasses Wanted

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Furbearer Team is interested in collecting the following:

**Lower jaws from Bobcats and Otters**

Carcasses of bobcats, coyotes, foxes, mink, muskrat, raccoons, skunks, and weasels

**Bobcat and otter jaws**: We will mail pre-paid envelopes to you for bobcat and otter jaws. The canine tooth will be used to look at the age structure of the harvest.

**Carcasses (can be skinned)**: Additionally, we’re hoping to obtain carcasses to collect tissues and organs to gain information on diseases, parasites, genetics, and toxicology exposure. Please contact Ashley Hobbs (information below) to submit a carcass.

Projects such as these are important, as they help us monitor populations and improve our knowledge of North Carolina furbearers. We feel this information will help us maintain trapping for future generations.

In return for your cooperation, you will receive a furbearer cooperator patch and the age of your submitted bobcat and otter. Thank you in advance!

**NCWRC – BOBCAT & OTTER JAW SAMPLE ENVELOPE**

1. **USE ONLY ONE [1] ENVELOPE PER ANIMAL.** Only submit animals trapped during the regulated trapping season (no road killed or hunted animals please). If you need additional envelopes, please call 919-698-7226.
2. We need the two (2) bottom canines from each animal: cut the jaw bone with loppers or hacksaw between the lower canines and 1.5 inches back from canine (see photo). Be careful not to cut too close to the canine tooth, so it is not damaged. The root of the tooth is needed to determine age of the animal. **DO NOT attempt to pull the canine tooth from the jaw because it will break in half.**
3. Clean away as much flesh as possible from the sample jaw. Allow the jaw section to completely dry before ending the pre-paid sample envelope and mail.

**For more envelopes, contact:**
Ashley Hobbs
Asst. Black Bear & Furbearer Biologist
919-698-4655
ashley.hobbs@ncwildlife.org

For more information visit: [ncwildlife.org/furcooperator](http://ncwildlife.org/furcooperator)

Cut and dry the portion of the lower jaw containing the canine tooth and its root. To ensure you include the root, cut the jawbone at least 2 in. away from the canine. Follow instructions on pre-paid envelope to ship.

**Please send in your bobcat & otter jaws by April 30th!!**
Reminders of Regulation Changes that impact Trappers for the 2022-23 season

CITES (bobcat and otter) Tag Fee:
- As of August 1, 2022, the Commission will no longer charge a fee for otter and bobcat CITES tags (previously $2.20 per tag)
- Created a limit on the number of tags that will be issued per request.
  - Up to 50 bobcat CITES tags and 150 otter CITES tags may be issued per request.
- Please note that the Commission does not have the authority to change the fee charged for fox tags; that fee is set in state law.
  - Fox tags are $2.25 each

Snapping Turtles:
- A snapping turtle collection license will be required for persons taking more than four snapping turtles (family Chelydriadae).
  - This license is limited to North Carolina residents and now aligns with several adjacent states that prohibit non-residents from collecting snapping turtles within their state.
- No more than 15 trapping devices can be used per snapping turtle collection license.
- Trapping devices shall be:
  - Labeled with a waterproof tag that shows the licensee’s name, WRC Customer Number, or Wildlife Collection License number.
  - Hoop traps or other trap style that allows for the unharmed release of any nontarget species or snapping turtles less than 13 inches.
  - Checked daily. This matches trap attendance requirements for most trapping activities.
- The minimum length for collecting snapping turtles was increased from 11 inches to 13 inches to protect females.
  - See graphic for how to measure the length of a snapping turtle.
Ordering Tags

To order your tags, call 888-248-6834 or purchase on-line through you the WRC Customer portal. You will need your WRC Customer number available to use the website. The number can be located on your hunting, trapping, or fishing license as well as your Big Game Report Card.

Step 1: Go to [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) and click the “Buy A License” orange button. See arrow below pointing to the orange button.

Step 2: Once you have entered and updated your customer information, click “New Item”. You will then go to a screen and select both “Other Licenses/Permits” and “Other (Fed Duck, Game Bird Prop, Fur Tags)”. See yellow arrows below.
Step 3: You are almost done! Click the tags you want to order and enter the quantity of tags. Then click the “Add to Cart” button. Now you can check out!

Selling your Furs

To find where you can sell your fur, we have a “Selling Fur” section on our website. It has information on local fur dealers, fur pick-up schedules & locations, and fur auctions. This information is updated monthly from December 2022 through February 2022 at ncwildlife.org/sellingfur

Fur dealer inspecting furs at the Virginia State Fur Sale in Wytheville, VA held every March.

Trappers waiting to sell their fur to Groenewold Fur & Wool Co., which has pick-up sites throughout North Carolina every March.

NC fur buyer, Kevin Myers, inspects otter pelts at the Marshall Fur Sale in March.
Trapping Live Foxes and Coyote

The 2022-23 trapping season marks the 2nd season in which a transportation permit is now needed to possess and sell live foxes and coyotes.

As a reminder, since the 2021-22 trapping season:

- A **transportation permit** is now required prior to taking possession of live foxes and coyotes for live sale to licensed fox preserve. Licensed trappers and any individual(s) transporting live foxes and coyotes for live sale shall have a current and **valid transportation permit** prior to taking possession of the live foxes and coyotes, including removing the animal from the trap.
  - This free **permit** can be found at [ncwildlife.org](https://ncwildlife.org) and click Licensing>Other Licenses & Permits>RAPS>Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License Application – Fox/Coyote

- Licensed trappers shall keep accurate written records, on a form provided by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, for each fox or coyote sold or transferred to licensed fox preserve.
  - This **report** can be found at [ncwildlife.org](https://ncwildlife.org) and click Licensing>Other Licenses & Permits>RAPS>Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License Application – Fox/Coyote

- Live-trapped foxes and coyotes shall not be held for more than 30 days after capture and shall be provided drinking water, food of a type and quantity appropriate for the species, and shelter that protects the foxes and coyotes from direct sunlight and precipitation.

Fox Trapping Seasons

The NC General Assembly did not pass any local laws during the 2022 short session that opened up any new counties to fox trapping.

As a reminder, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission does not have the authority to create fox trapping seasons; only the NC General Assembly has that authority.

There are 55 counties with fox trapping seasons in North Carolina. Outside these 55 counties, you cannot trap foxes during the regulated trapping season and any fox captured must be released in those 45 counties without a fox trapping season.

For more information on fox hunting and trapping seasons, including county-specific restrictions and season dates please go to: ncwildlife.org/foxseasons
Trapper Identification Number (TIN)

The Commission issues each trapper a Trapper Identification Number (TIN) at the time they purchase or renew their trapping license. This TIN is printed on your license (see picture on next page for example).

Either the TIN or Wildlife Control Agent (WCA) license number and Commission telephone number (800-662-7137), or the trapper's name and address can be used on trap tags. The license number issued to licensed WCAs is equivalent to a TIN and can be used on the trap tags. See trap tag examples on next page.

If a trapper places a trap on the property of another, the Commission is required to disclose the identity of the trapper to the landowner where the trap is located at the landowner's request.

The trapper identification number (TIN) is located below your date of birth on your license card.

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**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**

WRC CUSTOMER NUMBER: 10685970  
DATE OF BIRTH: 01/01/1978  
TRAPPER ID: 12345678

MAILING ADDRESS  
JOHN Q PUBLIC  
1751 VARSITY DR  
RALEIGH, NC 27606

The trapper identification number (TIN) is located below your date of birth on your license card.

**Option 1:** Trapper's name and address

**Option 2:** Trapper Identification Number (TIN) and Commission telephone number (800-662-7137). Note that a WCA license number can also be used on the trap tag.
Number of Licensed Trappers

During the 2021-22 season, there were 3,508 licensed trappers, a 7% increase in license sales compared to the 2020-21 season (see Figure 1). This is the 3rd highest number of licensed trappers since the 1986-87 season. The increase in trapping license sales continues the trend observed since the “COVID effect” that several states, including North Carolina, have experienced. Starting in 2020, many North Carolinians reconnected with the outdoors, including participating in regulated hunting and trapping. Despite low pelt prices, trapping license sales continue to increase. Wake County had the highest number of licensed trappers (trappers=107), while Clay County had the fewest (trappers=4; Figure 2).

Figure 1. The number of licensed trappers in North Carolina from the 2002-03 trapping season through the 2021-22 trapping season.

Figure 2. Number of licensed trappers by county of residency during the 2021-22 regulated trapping season.
**Want to Talk about Trapping?**

Do you want to talk more about regulated trapping with family, friends, colleagues, and the landowners, but don’t feel prepared?

Guess what, there are resources you can use! And studies have shown that people who know a trapper are more likely to have a better understanding of the role of regulated trapping for wildlife management.

The most common source for information about trapping (both positive and negative) comes from television, followed by the internet and newspapers. Consider using your knowledge and experience to be a source of information.

The [US Furbearer Conservation Technical Working Group](http://furbearermanagement.com/furbearer-reports/), of which North Carolina is one of two Southeast representatives on this working group, has produced a series of Science Briefs. These are 2-page summaries on common topics and questions related to regulated trapping, including animal welfare, trapping selectivity, trapping and the sustainable use of wildlife, public safety, and more.

These Science Briefs, and other trapping-related reports, can be found at: [furbearermanagement.com/furbearer-reports/](http://furbearermanagement.com/furbearer-reports/)

This is the same website to look up traps that are BMP traps (see next page).
Trapping Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Trapping BMPs are carefully researched recommendations designed to ensure animals are humanely captured. Developed as part of the largest trap research effort ever conducted, BMPs feature the latest scientific information about trapping techniques and equipment, along with practical advice from experienced trappers and wildlife biologists.

BMPs are intended to inform people about traps and trapping systems considered to be state-of-the-art in animal welfare, efficiency, selectivity, and practicality.

The BMPs serve as a guide to inform trappers about trap-types they should consider using for capturing a specific furbearer, including bobcats, coyotes, beaver, and raccoons!

Trapping BMPs exist for 22 species of furbearers: furbearermanagement.com

To make it easy to find a BMP-approved trap, this website has a trap search portal, where you can search for BMP-approved traps by trap-type (e.g., foothold, bodygrip), species, or trap brand.

Trapping BMPs, combined with Trapper Education Programs, are intended to maintain the integrity of furbearer management programs throughout the nation and to sustain trapping methods now and in the future.