### Preliminary Results from 2022-2023 Furbearer Trapping Season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>2021-22 Harvest</th>
<th>2022-23 Harvest</th>
<th>% Harvest Change from 21-22 to 22-23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaver</td>
<td>12,360</td>
<td>13,709</td>
<td>+11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mink</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>+35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskrat</td>
<td>2,661</td>
<td>1,463</td>
<td>-45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutria</td>
<td>2,364</td>
<td>1,670</td>
<td>-29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter</td>
<td>2,086</td>
<td>1,766</td>
<td>-15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobcat</td>
<td>1,227</td>
<td>1,193</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyote</td>
<td>8,042</td>
<td>5,734</td>
<td>-29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray Fox</td>
<td>1,794</td>
<td>1,433</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Fox</td>
<td>1,722</td>
<td>1,138</td>
<td>-34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opossum</td>
<td>5,712</td>
<td>6,378</td>
<td>+12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raccoon</td>
<td>9,325</td>
<td>9,488</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skunk</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>+11%</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 Commission staff at the 2023 NC Trappers Convention to get information on furbearer species, regulations, fox laws, research, our furbearer cooperator program, and much, much more!

**When:** September 29th and 30th, 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/2023-convention](https://www.nctrapper.org/2023-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!
Who to Contact:
Please don’t hesitate to contact us with questions, comments, or to participate in our cooperator programs!

Colleen Olfenbuttel, Certified Wildlife Biologist®
Black Bear and Furbearer Biologist
colleen.olfenbuttel@ncwildlife.org
919-920-6302

To participate in the Furbearer Cooperator Program, contact:
Ashley Hobbs
Wildlife Conservation Biologist
919-698-4655
ashley.hobbs@ncwildlife.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Biologist Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>Chris Kent</td>
<td>252-221-9961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>Chris Kent</td>
<td>252-617-0019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>Greg Batts</td>
<td>919-269-9731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>John Henry Harrelson</td>
<td>910-874-2725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 5</td>
<td>Joe Folta</td>
<td>336-212-7550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 6</td>
<td>Rupert Medford</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rupert.medford@ncwildlife.org">rupert.medford@ncwildlife.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 7</td>
<td>Jason Smith</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jason.smith@ncwildlife.org">jason.smith@ncwildlife.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 8</td>
<td>Danny Ray</td>
<td><a href="mailto:daniel.ray@ncwildlife.org">daniel.ray@ncwildlife.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 9</td>
<td>Justin McVey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:justin.mcvey@ncwildlife.org">justin.mcvey@ncwildlife.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advanced Trapping Workshops

The North Carolina Trappers Association (NCTA) offers advanced hands-on trapping workshops. Want to improve your trapping skills? Are you a Wildlife Control Agent that wants to expand into other species besides squirrels? To learn more and for instructions on signing up for either workshop, go to nctrapper.org/advanced-classes

There are two advanced courses coming up!

Advanced Hands-On Coyote Trapping Workshop
Saturday, October 7, 2023
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm

Learn about:
- Open Live Active Trapline
- Coyote Biology/Behavior
- Traps/Anchors/Pan Covers
- Dirthole Variations/Step Down
- Flat/Post Sets—When/Why
- Blind/Multiple Sets—When/Why
- Understanding Sign/Habitats
- Lures/Baits/Urines—When/Why
- Weather/Wind—Dos/Don’ts
- Coyote Laws/Regulations
- Hands-on Checking/Setting Traps

Cost: $100 for NCTA members
$150 for non-members*
*includes one-year NCTA membership

Location: Franklin County
1 Allen Lane
Youngsville, NC 27596

Instructors: Jimmy Pierce
Todd Menke

What To Bring:
- Bagged Lunch/Water
- Field Clothes/Rain or Shine
- Preferred Traps/Tools To Practice
- Cameras/Notebook/Pencil

To register: mail checks payable to NCTA or at: www.nctrapper.org/advanced-classes

Mail to: Todd Menke
2663 Tar River Road
 Creedmoor, NC 27522

Questions: minkster1971@gmail.com
(919) 885-6187
Other Trapper Educational Opportunities

The Commission and the NC Trappers Association offer free Trapper Education Courses. 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. To view trapper ed courses go to: https://license.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com/Event/Calendar.aspx

To look specifically for trapper ed. courses, click the green “Search Events” in the upper left hand corner, then type in “trapper”. Courses are often added throughout the year, especially in spring and summer. Courses are based on availability of our volunteer trapper educational instructors.
In September 2022, Dan Hunt received the “Trapper Education Instructor of the Year” Award from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Here he is also accepting the 2022 North Carolina Trappers Association’s “Trapper of the Year” award from fellow trapper education instructor and NCTA Education Coordinator, Todd Menke.

Dan has been a trapper education instructor since 2015 and has certified and instructed over 230 students in 15 classes. He is always the first instructor to volunteer to help other trapper education instructors anywhere in the state. Dan is an advocate for trapper education and encourages others to host classes across the state. He also puts together flyers and other outreach material to promote responsible trapping through education. Congratulations Dan and thank you for all your effort and time to promote responsible trapping.
2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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 October 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024 for the following species:
- Armadillo
- Beaver
- Bobcat
- Coyote
- Groundhog
- Mink
- Muskrat
- Nutria*
- Opossum
- Otter
- Raccoon
- Skunk
- Weasel

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

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 Licensed Wildlife Control Agent.

Beaver Note: Landowners whose property is or has been damaged by beavers may take beaver on their property anytime by any lawful method without obtaining a depredation permit. The landowner may obtain assistance from other persons, including licensed trappers, by giving those persons permission to take beaver on the landowner’s property. The beaver pelt, carcass, and parts can be sold by licensed trappers.

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 31st, 2023, 393 lifetime trapping licenses had been sold since Jan. 1, 2020.
Fox Trapping Seasons

As of September 1st, 2023, the NC General Assembly did not pass any local laws 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

Trapping Live Foxes and Coyote

The 2023-24 trapping season marks the 3rd 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 in the same place as fur tags (see page 8). Go to http://www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com and click the “Buy Licenses.” Then select “Regulated Activity Permits” in the middle and scroll down to Fox-Coyote Transport Application.

- 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 and click Licensing>Other Licenses & Permits>Regulated Activities and Permits>"Fox Coyote Transport Permit Application” and then scroll to bottom for report.

- 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.
Skulls 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 bobcat, coyote, foxes, mink, muskrat, raccoon, skunk and weasel

**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 submitted animals. Thank you in advance!

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

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### 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 jawbone with loppers or hack saw 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. **Allow the jaw section to completely dry** before sending your pre-paid sample envelope and mail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7-DIGIT WRC CUSTOMER ID</th>
<th>NAME:</th>
<th>ADDRESS:</th>
<th>CITY:</th>
<th>ZIP CODE:</th>
<th>EMAIL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**DATE HARVESTED:**

**SPECIES (Check one):**

BOBCAT

RIVER OTTER

**SEX OF ANIMAL**

[ ] MALE  [ ] FEMALE  [ ] UNKNOWN

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**Please send in your bobcat & otter jaws by April 30th!!**

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.

For more envelopes, contact:
Ashley Hobbs
Special Projects Biologist
919-698-4655
ashley.hobbs@ncwildlife.org

2
Ordering Tags on Go Outdoors NC

The Commission is using a new licensing system (Go Outdoors North Carolina) to issue licenses, permits, vessel registration, and other customer needs. To request bobcat, otter, and/or fox tags, you can call 833-950-0575 or purchase on-line through your Go Outdoors account. You will need your WRC Customer number available to use the website. The number can be located on your hunting, trapping, or fishing license.

Step 1: Go to http://www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com and click the “Buy Licenses”. See arrow below pointing to the button.

Step 2: Once you have entered your log-in information, you will be in your own customer portal. Once again, click “Buy Licenses”. You will then go to another screen and select “Regulated Activity Permits in the middle. See yellow arrow and circle below.
Step 3: You are almost done! Scroll down to the bottom of the website and you will see the options for obtaining “Furbearer Tags”. Then click the “Add to Cart” button by the tags you would like to order. Now you can check out!

As a reminder, while otter and bobcats tags are free, state law requires that the Commission to charge $2.25 per fox tags. Click the tags you want to order and enter the quantity of tags.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Furbearer Tags</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
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<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2023 through February 2024 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.
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 below.

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 (red arrow), which you can print yourself as a pdf.

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.
Figure 1. The number of licensed trappers in North Carolina from the 2002-03 trapping season through the 2022-23 trapping season.

During the 2022-23 season, there were 3,488 licensed trappers, a 0.6% decrease in license sales compared to the 2021-22 season (see Figure 1). This was still the 4th highest number of licensed trappers since the 1986-87 season. Despite low pelt prices, trapping license sales continue to remain relatively stable. Wake County had the highest number of licensed trappers (trappers=103), while Clay County had the fewest (trappers=5; Figure 2).

Figure 2. Number of licensed trappers by county of residency during the 2022-23 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, 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/

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.