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SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

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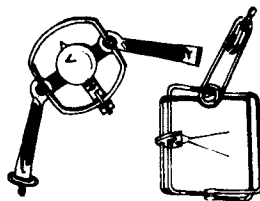
Federal Aid Project No. W-49-R(27)

Study XV: Wildlife Harvests

Job No. 4: Trapper harvest survey, 1979-80

By

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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO. W-49-R(27)

STUDY XV

JOB NO. 4

STUDY XV: Wildlife Harvests

JOB NO. 4: Trapper harvest survey, 1979-80

ABSTRACT: A stratified random sample of 1,300 persons who purchased 1979 series resident trapping licenses in Illinois was surveyed after the trapping season. The licensees were contacted by first class mail in 3 mailings. Questionnaires were deliverable to 1,299 (99.92%) recipients from which 1,055 useable replies were received (81.22% return). Of these, 87.49% were active, i.e. set 1 or more traps during the season. Only 2.60% of the active trappers were ineffective, i.e. caught nothing.

The 1979-80 survey covered 10 furbearer species. Findings are presented on a statewide basis and for each of the 10 wildlife management units in the state. These include estimated number and density of effective trappers, estimated total trapper harvest and trapper harvest per unit area, and average season catch. Statewide projections for number of effective trappers and total trapper harvest (in parentheses) are: muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus) 14,832 (474,179), mink (Mustela vison) 8,515 (23,587), raccoon (Procyon lotor) 15,340 (141,588), opossum (Didelphis marsupialis) 7,599 (27,432), red fox (Vulpes vulpes) 3,556 (12,659), gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus) 2,967 (5,875), beaver (Castor canadensis) 2,662 (8,918), striped skunk (Mephitis mephitis) 5,241 (15,775), weasel (Mustela frenata, M. rixosa) 326 (346), and coyote (Canis latrans) 2,073 (7,318).

The average trapper had traps set for 21.19 days (or nights). Active trappers reported their average age was 32.85 years. A major portion of these (43.46%) were less than 26 years of age. Size composition of Conibear type traps used was 80.28% #110/120 (10 cm x 10 cm), 15.96% #220 (17.5 cm x 17.5 cm), and 3.77% #330 (25.4 cm x 25.4 cm). The majority of effective muskrat trappers (59.18%) caught 20 or fewer muskrats during the season. Most effective raccoon trappers (84.11%) harvested from 1 to 15 raccoons for the entire season while 93.38% trapped 25 or less. Trappers sold 97.98% of their 1979-80 catch of which 5.66% was sold out-of-state. An accidental catch rate of 3.14% was reported, 30.44% of the licensed trappers also hunted furbearers, primarily raccoons. The harvest of pelts by hunting trappers amounted to 9.48% of the total trapped catch in the sample.

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JOB COMPLETION REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO.: W-49-R-27

STUDY XV

JOB NO. 4

STUDY XV: Wildlife Harvests

JOB NO. 4: Trapper harvest survey, 1979-80

OBJECTIVE: To collect information on the annual resident trapper harvest of furbearers in Illinois and associated trapper characteristics.

PROCEDURES: A stratified random mail survey of individuals who purchased trapping licenses was the basic technique employed. Mail survey address cards were filled out by license vendors for the first license sold in each book of 5 resident trapping licenses in the 1979 series (total sales estimate 21,437 - 1 July 1980) (Fig. 1). At the same time, the person purchasing the license was provided with an information card which requested him to keep a record of his activities since he might be contacted after the close of the season (Fig. 2). The survey address cards were returned to the Division of Wildlife Resources via business reply mail and were filed according to the licensee's county of residence.

Prior to the close of the muskrat trapping season, a random sub-sample based on the distribution of the 1973-77 trapping license sales was drawn. The size of the sub-sample was set at 1,300 since this quantity would result in 1,000 to 1,100 useable replies for adequate reliability at the statewide level. Address cards in the drawn sample were manually marked with serial numbers to provide for removal of respondents and underliverables from the initial and first follow-up mailings.

An initial and 2 follow-up mailings to non-respondents were made with a different letter of transmittal for each mailing (Figs. 3, 4, 5). Questionnaire cards were numbered to correspond with appropriate address cards and included with each transmittal letter (Fig. 6). First class postage (15.0¢) was used for all mailings.

Questionnaires were returned via business reply permit printed on the back of the form. Those received were checked for useability, and the respondents were initially placed into 1 of 2 categories: inactive - those that did not set traps for furbearers during the 1979-80 seasons; active - those that did set 1 or more traps for furbearers during the 1979-80 seasons. Active trappers were further classified as: effective - those who caught 1 or more furbearers of the species in question, or ineffective - those who did not catch any furbearers. Next, the county trapped in, non-target catches, and species hunted were numerically coded.

Reply data were transferred directly to magnetic computer tape at the Coordinated Sciences Laboratory, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, using remote terminals and stored for subsequent analysis. Mr. David Spoor, a consultant employed by the Coordinated Sciences Laboratory, prepared the data entry and analysis programs and obtained output.

Reply data for each species surveyed were compiled for the 10 wildlife management units in Illinois (Fig. 7). In addition, confidence limits at the 95% level were calculated by species for the number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total trapper harvest on a statewide basis. The formulas used were described by Cochran (1953) and Snedecor and Cochran (1967). These are as follows:

- a. Number of effective trappers for species:

where N = total license sales

n = number of licensees in sample

p = portion of licensees in sample who effectively trapped species in question

q = 1-p

$$\pm 2N \sqrt{\frac{pq}{n}}$$

- b. Average season catch per effective trapper for species in question:

where n₁ = number of licensees in sample who effectively trapped species in question

x_i = reported season catch for species in question

$$\pm \frac{1.96 \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n_1 - 1}}}{\sqrt{n_1}}$$

- c. Total trapper harvest:

where x = reported season catch for all licensees responding to survey

$$\pm 2N \left(\frac{\sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}}}{\sqrt{n}} \right)$$

All calculations assumed there were no differences between the activities of the licensees who returned the questionnaire and those who did not.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

1979-80 Trapping Seasons

The 1979-80 fur-bearing mammal trapping seasons varied from 30 to 111

days in length (Table 1). The seasons for all species except beaver, red fox, gray fox, and coyote were 30 days long with the northern management zone opening 10 days before the southern zone (Fig. 8). Beaver trapping season was 101 or 111 days in length and opened simultaneously with all other species except fox and coyote. Red fox, gray fox, and coyote could be legally trapped for 30 days statewide. No bag limits were in effect for any furbearer. Special regulations prohibited beaver trapping in Cook County.

1979-80 Trapper Mail Survey

The initial mailing of 1,300 questionnaires was made on 16 January 1980. The 2 follow-up mailings to non-respondents were made on 14 February (753) and 14 March (383) and closed out on 15 April 1980. Approximately 2 days preparation was required for each mailing.

A total of 1,299 (99.92%) licensees in the 1979-80 survey sample was reached by the Postal Service via first class mail. The single remaining questionnaire was returned as undeliverable. There were 1,055 useable replies received from the licensees contacted, representing an 81.22% response on the number delivered. Of these respondents, 923 (87.49%) reported that they set 1 or more traps for furbearers during the season and were classified as active. A total of 899 (97.40%) active trappers was effective, i.e. caught 1 or more furbearers, and the remaining 24 (2.60%) were ineffective, i.e. caught nothing.

a. Number of days trapped

Active trappers had traps set an average of 21.19 days (or nights) during the 1979-80 season (Fig. 9). The maximum number of days a trapper could have legally trapped was 111. However, only 6.81% of the respondents stated they had traps set for over 30 days. The vast majority of trapping activity appears to be concentrated during the muskrat, mink, and raccoon seasons. In 1978-79, Illinois trappers had traps set an average of 24.11 days during a 90 day season (Hubert 1980).

b. Age of trappers

Active trappers in 1979-80 had an average age of 32.85 years (Fig. 10). The majority (55.88%) were 30 years of age or younger. In fact, 43.46% were less than 26 years old. The age distribution observed probably reflects the combined effects of several factors. First, the attrition rate of young (i.e. novice) trappers appears to be quite high; many individuals stop trapping after they reach the age of 30. This may be the result of reduced leisure time due to increased job and family responsibilities. Additional leisure time could account for the slight increase in trappers 56 to 65 years of age. The relative abundance of young trappers may also reflect expanded interest in trapping in recent years. This factor is obviously important since the number of licensed trappers in Illinois climbed from 7,300 in 1972 to over 21,400 in 1979-80. High pelt prices and a decline in upland game hunting opportunities may have played a role. The fact that a majority of trappers are young (and probably lack experience) emphasizes the need for a formal trapper education program.

c. Conibear trap composition

The survey respondents stated their useable Conibear trap composition averaged 80.28% #110/#120 (10 cm x 10 cm), 15.96% #220 (17.8 cm x 17.8 cm), and 3.77% #330 (25.4 cm x 25.4 cm). Typically, Conibear traps account for about 38% of all traps used by Illinois trappers (Hubert 1978, 1980). This means that #220 and #330 Conibear traps make up only 7.50% of the traps employed in Illinois. Obviously, the major application of body-gripping traps is for muskrat and mink trapping.

d. Trapper harvest summary

A statewide summary for the 10 species of furbearers surveyed in 1979-80 is presented in Table 2. The data for each species include the estimated number of effective trappers and their percent of all licensees, average season catch per effective trapper, estimated total trapper harvest, and estimated percent and total sold. Similar information for each of the 10 species plus the estimated density of effective trappers and pelts harvested in each of the 10 wildlife management units is provided in Tables 3 to 12. The original sample sizes from which these data were derived are presented in Table 13 which also provides the percent of effective trappers for each species (season catch of 1 or more).

Statewide confidence intervals at the 95% level for number of effective trappers, average season catch per effective trapper, and total harvest for each furbearer are given in Table 14. In most instances, those species with the greater number of effective trappers in the sample have smaller limits of variability which result in greater confidence in the projections. In 1979-80, effective raccoon trappers were the most numerous and their projected number varied by only $\pm 3.88\%$. The 95% confidence interval projections for less numerous mink trappers varied by $\pm 7.59\%$ and for uncommon weasel trappers by $\pm 49.39\%$.

e. Distribution of harvest among effective trappers

Muskrat and raccoon were the 2 most important furbearers trapped during the 1979-80 season in terms of number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total harvest (Table 2). The reported number of muskrats harvested by 730 effective muskrat trappers ranged from 1 to 823 and averaged 31.97 (Tables 2, 13, 14). Approximately 73% of these trappers took less than the average catch while 59.18% harvested 20 or fewer muskrats during the season and 93.70% caught 100 or less (Fig. 11). Relatively few trappers are extremely successful at catching muskrats. Of the effective trappers who responded, 229 (31.37%) stated their catch averaged 1 or more muskrats per day for the entire season.

The distribution of harvest among effective raccoon trappers was similar to that for muskrat. The number of raccoons caught by the 755 effective raccoon trappers who reported averaged 9.23 and ranged from 1 to 150 (Tables 2, 13, 14). Less than the average season catch was taken by 70.07% of these trappers (Fig. 12). For the entire season, 84.11% harvested 15 or fewer raccoons and 93.38% trapped 25 or less. Only 41 (5.43%) of the effective raccoon trappers reported making an average daily catch of 1 or more raccoons throughout the season.

The harvest of the other 8 open season furbearers was distributed among effective trappers much like the muskrat and raccoon harvests (Table 15). For 5 of these species, less than 12% of the effective trappers made season catches exceeding 5 pelts. The exceptions were: effective opossum trappers - 17.64% of these individual trapped more than 5 opossums during the season; effective red fox trappers - 12.56% trapped more than 5 red foxes during the season; and effective beaver trappers - 15.26% caught more than 5 beaver during the season.

The above data emphasize the inapplicability of bag limits (both daily and seasonal) to furbearer trapping. Few trappers are successful in making large seasonal catches. The ones who do are active throughout the season over extensive areas. Reductions in season length offer the most potential for reducing the furbearer harvest by these highly successful individuals. Bag limits could potentially increase harvests because of their goal-setting effect.

f. Pelt sales

Trappers sold an estimated 97.98% of their catch during 1979-80. The portion of each species sold ranged from a low of 41.02% for striped skunk to a high of 99.60% for raccoon (Table 2). The fraction of pelts sold in Illinois and out-of-state also varied among species (Table 16). Overall, 94.34% of the marketed portion of the trapped catch was sold in Illinois and 5.66% out-of-state. Hubert (1980) found that Illinois trappers sold 3.93% of their pelts outside the state in 1978-79.

g. Non-target catches

Accidental catches were reported by 368 (35.25%) of all trappers who responded to the 1979-80 survey (Table 17). In comparison, 39.87% of the active trappers made non-target catches. Trappers making accidental catches averaged 2.98 for the year. The estimated total number of non-target animals caught by trappers during the season was 22,556. As stated earlier, the estimated total furbearer catch by trappers was 717,677 (Table 2). Therefore, the accidental catch rate was 3.14% or 1 accidental catch for every 32 furbearers trapped. If rats and mice are excluded from the accidental catch list, the non-target catch rate would be 2.95%. Many respondents indicated that some or all of the animals they accidentally captured were released. An accidental catch rate of 2.13% was reported by Illinois trappers in 1978-79 (Hubert 1980).

h. Fur hunting by trappers

A total of 295 (30.44%) trappers reported that they hunted furbearers with gun and/or dogs in 1979-80 (Table 18). Their total hunting harvest was 3,190 pelts for an average of 10.81 per hunting trapper. This amounts to 9.48% of the total trapped catch in the sample. The raccoon was hunted by more trappers than any other species. Next in popularity was the opossum. In 1979-80, 28.12% of the trappers in Illinois hunted furbearers (Hubert 1980). Sampson (1973) reported 33.6% of the trappers in Missouri were fur hunters.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

A mail survey of this type probably realizes its best use and reliability for furbearer management as an indicator of trends in trapping pressure, trapper success, trapper harvest, and trapping recreation. In addition, this particular survey provides the only regional harvest data available for the trapped portion of the annual fur catch. It is recommended that the survey be continued in essentially the same form.

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DATA AND REPORTS:

Original data and reports in this investigation are on file in the Division of Wildlife Resources Office, Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield IL 62706.

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Table 1. Illinois fur-bearing mammal trapping seasons for 1979-80.

| Species | Trapping season | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northern zone | Southern zone |
| Muskrat, Mink, Raccoon, Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel | 10 Nov - 9 Dec (30) ^a | 20 Nov - 19 Dec (30) |
| Beaver | 10 Nov - 28 Feb (111) | 20 Nov - 28 Feb (101) |
| Red Fox, Gray Fox, Coyote | 30 Nov - 29 Dec (30) | 30 Nov - 29 Dec (30) |

^a Numbers in parentheses are season lengths in days.

Table 2. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of Illinois resident trappers, 1979-80 season (n = 1,055).

| Species | Estimated number of effective trappers | Percent of total licensees | Average season catch | Estimated total trapper harvest | Estimated percent sold ^a | Estimated total sold |
|---------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Muskrat | 14,832 | 69.19 | 31.97 | 474,179 | 99.49 | 471,761 |
| Mink | 8,515 | 39.72 | 2.77 | 23,587 | 99.28 | 23,417 |
| Raccoon | 15,340 | 71.56 | 9.23 | 141,588 | 99.60 | 141,022 |
| Opossum | 7,599 | 35.45 | 3.61 | 27,432 | 96.60 | 26,499 |
| Red fox | 3,556 | 16.59 | 3.56 | 12,659 | 99.31 | 12,572 |
| Gray fox | 2,967 | 13.84 | 1.98 | 5,875 | 98.14 | 5,766 |
| Beaver | 2,662 | 12.42 | 3.35 | 8,918 | 91.26 | 8,139 |
| Striped skunk | 5,241 | 24.45 | 3.01 | 15,775 | 41.02 | 6,471 |
| Weasel | 326 | 1.52 | 1.06 | 346 | 53.33 | 185 |
| Coyote | 2,073 | 9.67 | 3.53 | 7,318 | 93.62 | 6,851 |

^a n = 969.

Table 3. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1979-80, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 730).

| Wildlife management unit | Estimated number of effective trappers | Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ² | Average season catch | Estimated total trapper harvest ^a | Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km ² |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Northwest Hills | 1,889 (12.74) ^b | 20.10 | 57.76 | 109,109 (23.01) ^b | 1,160.86 |
| Northeast Moraine | 955 (6.44) | 11.54 | 44.34 | 42,345 (8.93) | 511.91 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 976 (6.58) | 12.44 | 45.50 | 44,408 (9.37) | 565.85 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 1,523 (10.27) | 11.14 | 25.43 | 38,730 (8.17) | 283.22 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 1,666 (11.23) | 11.55 | 18.09 | 30,138 (6.36) | 208.99 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 386 (2.60) | 9.31 | 20.00 | 7,720 (1.63) | 186.16 |
| Grand Prairie | 4,774 (32.19) | 9.07 | 32.89 | 157,017 (33.11) | 298.35 |
| Southern Plain | 1,789 (12.06) | 7.54 | 18.50 | 33,096 (6.98) | 139.49 |
| Wabash Border | 650 (4.38) | 9.64 | 14.41 | 9,366 (1.98) | 138.92 |
| Shawnee Hills | 224 (1.51) | 4.29 | 9.82 | 2,200 (0.46) | 42.18 |
| Statewide | 14,832(100.00) | 10.15 | 31.97 | 474,179(100.00) | 324.61 |

^aSum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^bNumbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 4. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1979-80, from post-season resident trapper survey (n = 419).

| Wildlife management unit | Estimated number of effective trappers | Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ² | Average season catch | Estimated total trapper harvest ^a | Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ² |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Northwest Hills | 894 (10.50) ^b | 9.51 | 2.39 | 2,137 (9.07) ^b | 22.74 |
| Northeast Moraine | 569 (6.68) | 6.88 | 4.82 | 2,743 (11.64) | 33.16 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 386 (4.53) | 4.92 | 2.37 | 915 (3.88) | 11.66 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 914 (10.74) | 6.68 | 2.00 | 1,828 (7.76) | 13.37 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 976 (11.46) | 6.77 | 2.21 | 2,157 (9.15) | 14.96 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 163 (1.91) | 3.93 | 1.88 | 306 (1.30) | 7.38 |
| Grand Prairie | 2,906 (34.13) | 5.52 | 3.03 | 8,805 (37.36) | 16.73 |
| Southern Plain | 1,219 (14.32) | 5.14 | 3.00 | 3,657 (15.52) | 15.41 |
| Wabash Border | 325 (3.82) | 4.82 | 2.00 | 650 (2.76) | 9.64 |
| Shawnee Hills | 163 (1.91) | 3.12 | 2.25 | 367 (1.56) | 7.04 |
| Statewide | 8,515(100.00) | 5.83 | 2.77 | 23,587(100.00) | 16.15 |

^aSum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^bNumbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 5. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1979-80, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 755).

| Wildlife management unit | Estimated number of effective trappers | Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ² | Average season catch | Estimated total trapper harvest ^a | Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ² |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Northwest Hills | 1,809 (11.79) ^b | 19.25 | 8.57 | 15,503 (10.95) ^b | 164.94 |
| Northeast Moraine | 914 (5.96) | 11.05 | 9.53 | 8,710 (6.15) | 105.29 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 1,015 (6.62) | 12.93 | 11.18 | 11,348 (8.02) | 144.60 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 1,686 (10.99) | 12.33 | 8.76 | 14,769 (10.43) | 108.00 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 1,971 (12.85) | 13.67 | 10.35 | 20,400 (14.41) | 141.46 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 426 (2.78) | 10.27 | 6.62 | 2,820 (1.99) | 68.00 |
| Grand Prairie | 4,633 (30.20) | 8.80 | 9.55 | 44,245 (31.25) | 84.07 |
| Southern Plain | 1,910 (12.45) | 8.05 | 8.31 | 15,872 (11.21) | 66.89 |
| Wabash Border | 732 (4.77) | 10.86 | 8.36 | 6,120 (4.32) | 90.77 |
| Shawnee Hills | 244 (1.59) | 4.68 | 7.33 | 1,789 (1.27) | 34.30 |
| Statewide | 15,340(100.00) | 10.50 | 9.23 | 141,588(100.00) | 96.93 |

^aSum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^bNumbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 6. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1979-80, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 374).

| Wildlife management unit | Estimated number of effective trappers | Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ² | Average season catch | Estimated total trapper harvest ^a | Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ² |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Northwest Hills | 447 (5.88) ^b | 4.76 | 2.09 | 934 (3.40) ^b | 9.94 |
| Northeast Moraine | 366 (4.81) | 4.42 | 3.06 | 1,120 (4.08) | 13.54 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 549 (7.22) | 7.00 | 3.63 | 1,993 (7.25) | 25.40 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 1,239 (16.31) | 9.06 | 4.69 | 5,811 (21.15) | 42.49 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 793 (10.43) | 5.50 | 2.44 | 1,935 (7.04) | 13.42 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 122 (1.60) | 2.94 | 4.17 | 509 (1.85) | 12.27 |
| Grand Prairie | 1,970 (25.94) | 3.74 | 2.65 | 5,220 (19.00) | 9.92 |
| Southern Plain | 1,341 (17.65) | 5.65 | 4.47 | 5,994 (21.82) | 25.26 |
| Wabash Border | 569 (7.49) | 8.44 | 3.57 | 2,031 (7.39) | 30.12 |
| Shawnee Hills | 203 (2.67) | 3.89 | 9.50 | 1,928 (7.02) | 36.96 |
| Statewide | 7,599(100.00) | 5.20 | 3.61 | 27,432(100.00) | 18.78 |

^aSum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^bNumbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 7. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1979-80, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 175).

| Wildlife management unit | Estimated number of effective trappers | Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ² | Average season catch | Estimated total trapper harvest ^a | Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ² |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Northwest Hills | 366 (10.29) ^b | 3.89 | 2.67 | 977 (7.72) ^b | 10.39 |
| Northeast Moraine | 325 (9.14) | 3.93 | 3.94 | 1,280 (10.11) | 15.47 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 102 (2.86) | 1.30 | 3.80 | 388 (3.06) | 4.94 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 325 (9.14) | 2.38 | 2.19 | 712 (5.62) | 5.21 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 325 (9.14) | 2.25 | 1.88 | 611 (4.83) | 4.24 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 81 (2.29) | 1.95 | 7.25 | 587 (4.64) | 14.15 |
| Grand Prairie | 1,321 (37.14) | 2.51 | 4.49 | 5,931 (46.84) | 11.27 |
| Southern Plain | 488 (13.71) | 2.06 | 3.42 | 1,669 (13.18) | 7.03 |
| Wabash Border | 142 (4.00) | 2.11 | 2.14 | 304 (2.40) | 4.51 |
| Shawnee Hills | 81 (2.29) | 1.55 | 2.50 | 202 (1.60) | 3.87 |
| Statewide | 3,556(100.00) | 2.43 | 3.56 | 12,659(100.00) | 8.67 |

^aSum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^bNumbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 8. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1979-80, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 146).

| Wildlife management unit | Estimated number of effective trappers | Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ² | Average season catch | Estimated total trapper harvest ^a | Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ² |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Northwest Hills | 305 (10.27) ^b | 3.25 | 1.40 | 427 (7.27) ^b | 4.54 |
| Northeast Moraine | 244 (8.22) | 2.95 | 1.67 | 407 (6.93) | 4.92 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 102 (3.43) | 1.30 | 1.60 | 163 (2.77) | 2.08 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 447 (15.07) | 3.27 | 1.73 | 773 (13.16) | 5.65 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 183 (6.16) | 1.27 | 1.00 | 183 (3.11) | 1.27 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 81 (2.74) | 1.95 | 1.50 | 122 (2.08) | 2.94 |
| Grand Prairie | 772 (26.03) | 1.47 | 1.79 | 1,382 (23.53) | 2.63 |
| Southern Plain | 589 (19.86) | 2.48 | 3.10 | 1,826 (31.09) | 7.70 |
| Wabash Border | 122 (4.11) | 1.81 | 1.67 | 204 (3.47) | 3.03 |
| Shawnee Hills | 122 (4.11) | 2.34 | 3.17 | 387 (6.59) | 7.42 |
| Statewide | 2,967 (100.00) | 2.03 | 1.98 | 5,875 (100.00) | 4.02 |

^aSum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^bNumbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 9. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1979-80, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 131).

| Wildlife management unit | Estimated number of effective trappers | Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ² | Average season catch | Estimated total trapper harvest ^a | Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ² |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Northwest Hills | 224 (8.40) ^b | 2.38 | 4.36 | 977 (10.96) ^b | 10.39 |
| Northeast Moraine | 102 (3.82) | 1.23 | 2.80 | 286 (3.21) | 3.46 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 264 (9.92) | 3.36 | 3.62 | 956 (10.72) | 12.18 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 264 (9.92) | 1.93 | 3.38 | 892 (10.00) | 6.52 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 345 (12.98) | 2.39 | 2.53 | 873 (9.79) | 6.05 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 61 (2.29) | 1.47 | 3.33 | 203 (2.28) | 4.90 |
| Grand Prairie | 1,097 (41.22) | 2.08 | 3.57 | 3,916 (43.92) | 7.44 |
| Southern Plain | 224 (8.40) | 0.94 | 3.27 | 732 (8.21) | 3.09 |
| Wabash Border | 20 (0.76) | 0.30 | 1.00 | 20 (0.22) | 0.30 |
| Shawnee Hills | 61 (2.29) | 1.17 | 1.00 | 61 (0.69) | 1.17 |
| Statewide | 2,662(100.00) | 1.82 | 3.35 | 8,918(100.00) | 6.11 |

^aSum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^bNumbers in parentheses are percentage of statewide total.

Table 10. Summary of striped skunk trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1979-80, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 258).

| Wildlife management unit | Estimated number of effective trappers | Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ² | Average season catch | Estimated total trapper harvest ^a | Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ² |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Northwest Hills | 711 (13.56) ^b | 7.56 | 3.34 | 2,375 (15.04) ^b | 25.27 |
| Northeast Moraine | 386 (7.36) | 4.67 | 2.89 | 1,116 (7.07) | 13.49 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 284 (5.43) | 3.62 | 2.64 | 750 (4.75) | 9.56 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 406 (7.75) | 2.97 | 3.55 | 1,441 (9.13) | 10.54 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 569 (10.85) | 3.95 | 2.29 | 1,303 (8.25) | 9.04 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 122 (2.33) | 2.94 | 4.33 | 528 (3.34) | 12.73 |
| Grand Prairie | 1,808 (34.50) | 3.44 | 2.88 | 5,207 (32.97) | 9.89 |
| Southern Plain | 691 (13.18) | 2.91 | 3.24 | 2,239 (14.18) | 9.44 |
| Wabash Border | 162 (3.10) | 2.40 | 3.50 | 567 (3.59) | 8.41 |
| Shawnee Hills | 102 (1.94) | 1.96 | 2.60 | 265 (1.68) | 5.08 |
| Statewide | 5,241 (100.00) | 3.59 | 3.01 | 15,775 (100.00) | 10.80 |

^aSum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^bNumbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 11. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1979-80, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 16).

| Wildlife management unit | Estimated number of effective trappers | Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ² | Average season catch | Estimated total trapper harvest ^a | Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ² |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Northwest Hills | 41 (12.50) ^b | 0.44 | 1.00 | 41 (11.85) ^b | 0.44 |
| Northeast Moraine | 41 (12.50) | 0.50 | 1.00 | 41 (11.85) | 0.50 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 20 (6.25) | 0.25 | 1.00 | 20 (5.78) | 0.25 |
| Mississippi Border-South | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 20 (6.25) | 0.14 | 1.00 | 20 (5.78) | 0.14 |
| Central Sand Prairie | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Grand Prairie | 82 (25.00) | 0.16 | 1.00 | 82 (23.70) | 0.16 |
| Southern Plain | 41 (12.50) | 0.17 | 1.00 | 41 (11.85) | 0.17 |
| Wabash Border | 61 (18.75) | 0.90 | 1.33 | 81 (23.41) | 1.20 |
| Shawnee Hills | 20 (6.25) | 0.38 | 1.00 | 20 (5.78) | 0.38 |
| Statewide | 326(100.00) | 0.22 | 1.06 | 346(100.00) | 0.24 |

^aSum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^bNumbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 12. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1979-80, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 102).

| Wildlife management unit | Estimated number of effective trappers | Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ² | Average season catch | Estimated total trapper harvest ^a | Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ² |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Northwest Hills | 122 (5.88) ^b | 1.30 | 1.00 | 122 (1.67) ^b | 1.30 |
| Northeast Moraine | 61 (2.94) | 0.74 | 1.33 | 81 (1.11) | 0.98 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 122 (5.88) | 1.55 | 2.67 | 326 (4.45) | 4.15 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 203 (9.81) | 1.48 | 1.70 | 345 (4.71) | 2.52 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 305 (14.71) | 2.11 | 4.13 | 1,260 (17.22) | 8.74 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 61 (2.94) | 1.47 | 2.67 | 163 (2.23) | 3.93 |
| Grand Prairie | 508 (24.51) | 0.97 | 5.84 | 2,967 (40.55) | 5.64 |
| Southern Plain | 447 (21.57) | 1.88 | 3.36 | 1,502 (20.53) | 6.33 |
| Wabash Border | 163 (7.84) | 2.42 | 2.63 | 429 (5.86) | 6.36 |
| Shawnee Hills | 81 (3.92) | 1.55 | 1.50 | 122 (1.67) | 2.34 |
| Statewide | 2,073(100.00) | 1.42 | 3.53 | 7,318(100.00) | 5.01 |

^a Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^b Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 13. Statewide sample sizes for 1979-80 post-season mail survey of Illinois resident trappers (n = 1,055).

| Species | Total effective trappers | Percent effective trappers | Total season catch |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Muskrat | 730 | 69.19 | 23,336 |
| Mink | 419 | 39.72 | 1,159 |
| Raccoon | 755 | 71.56 | 6,968 |
| Opossum | 374 | 35.45 | 1,352 |
| Red fox | 175 | 16.59 | 623 |
| Gray fox | 146 | 13.84 | 289 |
| Beaver | 131 | 12.42 | 439 |
| Striped skunk | 258 | 24.45 | 777 |
| Weasel | 16 | 1.52 | 17 |
| Coyote | 102 | 9.67 | 360 |

Table 14. Estimated number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total trapper harvest by species in Illinois for 1979-80 season based on post-season trapper mail survey (n = 1,055).

| Species | Estimated number of effective trappers | Estimated average season catch | Estimated total harvest |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Muskrat | 14,833 ± 609 ^a | 31.97 ± 4.25 ^a | 474,211 ± 67,255 ^a |
| Mink | 8,514 ± 646 | 2.77 ± 0.31 | 23,584 ± 3,198 |
| Raccoon | 15,341 ± 595 | 9.23 ± 0.94 | 141,597 ± 15,721 |
| Opossum | 7,599 ± 631 | 3.61 ± 0.39 | 27,432 ± 3,795 |
| Red fox | 3,556 ± 491 | 3.56 ± 1.17 | 12,659 ± 4,567 |
| Gray fox | 2,967 ± 456 | 1.98 ± 0.41 | 5,875 ± 1,540 |
| Beaver | 2,662 ± 435 | 3.35 ± 0.71 | 8,918 ± 2,419 |
| Striped skunk | 5,242 ± 567 | 2.65 ± 0.32 | 13,891 ± 2,430 |
| Weasel | 326 ± 161 | 1.06 ± 0.12 | 346 ± 177 |
| Coyote | 2,073 ± 390 | 3.53 ± 2.18 | 7,318 ± 4,795 |

^a 95% confidence interval.

Table 15. Distribution of harvest among effective trappers for 8 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1979-80, from post-season resident trapper mail survey.

| Total season catch | Percentage of effective trappers for species | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Mink (419) ^a | Opossum (374) | Red fox (175) | Gray fox (146) | Beaver (131) | Striped skunk(258) | Weasel (16) | Coyote (102) |
| 1 | 45.58 | 31.28 | 46.86 | 60.28 | 45.80 | 33.33 | 93.75 | 61.77 |
| 2 | 22.67 | 23.26 | 25.14 | 19.87 | 16.03 | 23.26 | 6.25 | 16.67 |
| 3 | 10.02 | 10.70 | 7.43 | 9.59 | 10.69 | 12.40 | - | 8.82 |
| 4 | 6.92 | 10.70 | 5.72 | 4.11 | 6.11 | 10.85 | - | 1.96 |
| 5 | 3.34 | 6.42 | 2.29 | 1.37 | 6.11 | 9.69 | - | 0.98 |
| 6 | 2.86 | 4.01 | 3.43 | 2.74 | 2.29 | 3.49 | - | 2.94 |
| 7 | 2.39 | 3.48 | 2.29 | 0.68 | 0.76 | 1.55 | - | 0.98 |
| 8 | 1.67 | 2.41 | - | 0.68 | 3.06 | 1.55 | - | - |
| 9 | 0.72 | 0.53 | 1.14 | - | 0.76 | 0.39 | - | - |
| 10 | 0.95 | 2.67 | - | - | 2.29 | 1.94 | - | 0.98 |
| 11 | 0.24 | 0.27 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 12 | 0.72 | 0.80 | 0.57 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 13 | 0.24 | 0.53 | 0.57 | - | 0.76 | - | - | - |
| 14 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 | - | 0.80 | 0.57 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16-20 | 0.96 | 1.34 | 1.14 | - | 2.29 | 1.16 | - | 1.96 |
| 21-25 | 0.48 | - | 0.57 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 | 0.24 | 0.80 | 2.28 | 0.68 | 0.76 | - | - | 1.96 |

^a Numbers in parentheses indicate sample size for species.

Table 16. Distribution of pelt sales by trappers for 10 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1979-80 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 1,019).

| Species | Total number of pelts sold | Total number of pelts sold in Illinois | Percent sold in Illinois | Total number of pelts sold outside of Illinois | Percent sold outside of Illinois |
|---------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Muskrat | 22,724 | 21,587 | 95.00 | 1,137 | 5.00 |
| Mink | 1,131 | 1,066 | 94.25 | 65 | 5.75 |
| Raccoon | 6,761 | 6,430 | 95.10 | 331 | 4.90 |
| Opossum | 1,276 | 1,172 | 91.85 | 104 | 8.15 |
| Red fox | 606 | 499 | 82.34 | 107 | 17.66 |
| Gray fox | 279 | 271 | 97.13 | 8 | 2.87 |
| Beaver | 390 | 355 | 91.03 | 35 | 8.97 |
| Striped skunk | 326 | 305 | 93.56 | 21 | 6.44 |
| Weasel | 8 | 7 | 87.50 | 1 | 12.50 |
| Coyote | 332 | 226 | 68.07 | 106 | 31.93 |
| Totals | 33,833 | 31,918 | 94.34 | 1,915 | 5.66 |

Table 17. Summary of non-target catches by trappers in Illinois, 1979-80 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 1,044).

| Species | Number of trappers catching species | Total number caught | Average number caught | Estimated percent of all trappers catching species | Estimated total caught by all trappers |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Cat | 196 | 450 | 2.30 | 18.77 | 9,255 |
| Dog | 95 | 161 | 1.69 | 9.10 | 3,297 |
| Squirrel | 32 | 58 | 1.81 | 3.07 | 1,191 |
| Rabbit | 39 | 76 | 1.95 | 3.74 | 1,563 |
| Rat | 15 | 55 | 3.67 | 1.44 | 1,133 |
| Mouse | 4 | 11 | 2.75 | 0.38 | 224 |
| Crow | 33 | 45 | 1.36 | 3.16 | 921 |
| Blue jay | 15 | 18 | 1.20 | 1.44 | 370 |
| Hawk | 9 | 9 | 1.00 | 0.86 | 184 |
| Owl | 15 | 16 | 1.07 | 1.44 | 330 |
| Bird-Unspecified | 94 | 155 | 1.65 | 9.00 | 3,183 |
| Other (e.g. skunk, fish, ground hog, turtle) | 20 | 44 | 2.20 | 1.92 | 905 |
| Totals | 368 | 1,098 | 2.98 | 35.25 | 22,556 |

Table 18. Summary of fur hunting activities of trappers in Illinois, 1979-80 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 969).

| Species | Number of trappers hunting species | Total number harvested by hunting | Average number harvested by hunting | Estimated percent of all trappers effectively hunting species | Estimated total harvest by all trappers effectively hunting species |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Raccoon | 222 | 2,903 | 13.08 | 22.91 | 64,239 |
| Opossum | 45 | 122 | 2.71 | 4.64 | 2,696 |
| Red fox | 25 | 51 | 2.04 | 2.58 | 1,128 |
| Gray fox | 14 | 24 | 1.71 | 1.44 | 528 |
| Striped skunk | 10 | 16 | 1.60 | 1.03 | 353 |
| Coyote | 35 | 74 | 2.11 | 3.61 | 1,633 |
| All species | 295 | 3,190 | 10.81 | 30.44 | 70,577 |

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BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 1000 SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Postage Will Be Paid by Addressee

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Wildlife Resources Division
Furbearer Section
605 STRATTON BUILDING
401 SOUTH SPRING STREET
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

TO ISSUING CLERK:

The Department of Conservation is conducting a survey to estimate the fur harvest in Illinois. To effect this, we need the names and addresses of part of our licensed trappers. Please print at the bottom of this page, in space provided, name, mailing address including zip code, and county of residence of the person who purchases the first license in this book. Please detach the next page and give to license purchaser.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please note reverse side is Business Reply postal card, perforated at binding for removing.

**MAIL IMMEDIATELY UPON SALE
OF LICENSE
TRAPPING (1979 SERIES)**

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Name |
| Rural Route or Street Address |
| Post Office |
| Zip Code |
| County of Residence |

Figure 1. Mail survey address card issued to license vendors in 1979-80 post-season trapper mail survey.

Dear Trapper:

Please keep an accurate record of the **number of days you had traps set, the average number and kinds of traps you used during the season, the number of furbearers you caught in traps, what county you trapped in most, and the number and kinds of pelts you sold in Illinois and Out of State.**

You may be one of the selected trappers contacted at the close of the trapping season and provided a form to return to the Illinois Department of Conservation.

Thanks for your cooperation.

THE BACK SIDE OF THIS CARD MAY BE USED FOR RECORD KEEPING.

Number of TRAPS I had set: _____

Number of DAYS I had traps set: _____

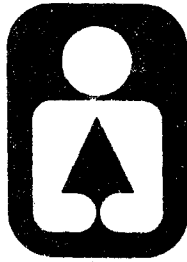
FURBEARERS CAUGHT IN TRAPS: _____

| Species | Total Number Caught | Number Sold | |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | In Illinois | Out-of-State |
| Muskrat | | | |
| Mink | | | |
| Raccoon | | | |
| Opossum | | | |
| Beaver | | | |
| Red Fox | | | |
| Gray Fox | | | |
| Coyote | | | |
| Striped Skunk | | | |
| Weasel | | | |

Other Animals Caught: _____

Figure 2. Information and activity record card issued to trappers in 1979-80 post-season trapper mail survey.

Illinois



-27-

Department of Conservation

life and land together

605 WM. G. STRATTON BUILDING • 400 SOUTH SPRING STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

David Kenney, Director • James C. Helfrich, Assistant Director

1

1979-80

Dear Illinois Trapper:

The harvest of fur-bearing animals is one of the few field and stream sports that is tied to our economy through a return from the crop. In the 1978-79 season, there were 798,157 pelts sold by Illinois fur-takers for a value to them of \$12,039,600. We need information on the trapped portion of the catch for the 1979-80 season.

You can make an important contribution to the future management of Illinois' fur harvests and trapping activity by completing the enclosed questionnaire. The questionnaire is self-explanatory. If you did not trap, simply answer questions #1 and #8 and return the questionnaire. If you did trap, please fill out the questionnaire completely.

The information requested from you and other trappers is used in determining catch, trapping success, trapping pressure, and trapper characteristics on a statewide basis. These facts are necessary for a better understanding of how regulations affect your trapping and the welfare of the furbearer populations. Also, with your help, the future of sport trapping will be assured.

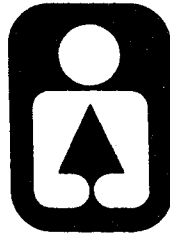
Please take a few minutes and fill out the questionnaire. If you do not remember exact figures, please give your best estimate. Also, if you trapped in partnership with another person, list only your half of the catch. Drop the completed questionnaire in the mail; no postage is required. Please reply even if you did not trap this season or were not successful.

Yours for better trapping.

Sincerely,

George Hubert, Jr.
Furbearer Biologist

GH:gh
Encl.



-28-

Illinois
Department of
Conservation
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605 STATE OFFICE BUILDING • 400 SOUTH SPRING STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

Dear Illinois Trapper:

Recently we mailed to you a Trapping Survey Questionnaire and requested that you fill out and return the completed form. We have not received your form at this time - perhaps because you have misplaced the questionnaire card or haven't found time to complete it and return it to us.

We are enclosing another questionnaire card which we hope you will complete and return as soon as possible. If you have already returned a questionnaire, please destroy this one. The information supplied by you and other trappers being sampled will be of great value to the Conservation Department in better directing the management of the Illinois furbearer resource.

Please fill out the form completely and return it even if you did not trap or were not successful. If you trapped in partnership with another person, please list only your half of the catch. No postage is required to return the completed questionnaire. Simply fill it out and drop it in the mail.

Your prompt attention will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

George Hubert, Jr.
Furbearer Biologist
Division of Wildlife Resources

Figure 4. Letter of transmittal sent with first follow-up mailing in 1979-80 post-season trapper mail survey.



**Illinois
Department of
Conservation**
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605 STATE OFFICE BUILDING • 400 SOUTH SPRING STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

Dear Illinois Trapper:

This is to remind you that we still would like to receive an answer to the questionnaire concerning your trapping activity this past season. We don't like to keep bothering you, but this is very important information which only you can supply.

Another copy of the questionnaire card is enclosed. We hope you will complete and return it as soon as possible. If you have already returned a questionnaire, simply destroy this one. We are making a final effort to obtain a complete response so that we may compile the information received from all co-operating trappers and prepare a report of our findings. Remember, your response is needed - even though you did not trap or had an unsuccessful season. Also, if you trapped in partnership with another person, kindly list only your half of the catch.

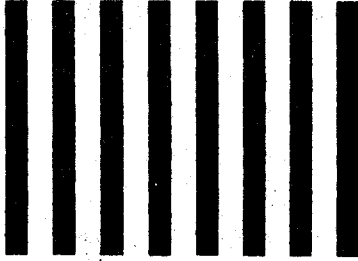
No postage is required to return the completed questionnaire card. Just fill it out and drop it in the mail. Please help us complete this survey by sending it in now!

Sincerely,

George Hubert, Jr.
Furbearer Biologist
Division of Wildlife Resources

Figure 5. Letter of transmittal sent with second follow-up mailing in 1979-80 post-season trapper mail survey.

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United States



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 2032, SPRINGFIELD, IL

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Illinois Department of Conservation
Division of Wildlife Resources - Furbearer
605 Stratton Building
401 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

**FURBEARER TRAPPING SURVEY
1979-80 SEASON**

1. Did you trap for furbearers in Illinois during the 1979-80 season? Yes No
2. In what COUNTY did you do MOST of your trapping? _____
3. How many days (or nights) did you have traps set? _____
4. How old were you on your last birthday? _____ years old
5. Indicate how many of each of the following types of traps you use:
 Conibear # 110, # 120 traps _____
 Conibear # 220 traps _____
 Conibear # 330 traps _____
6. Please fill in all three blanks for each kind or furbearer you trapped in Illinois during the 1979-80 season:

| | Number Caught In Traps | Number SOLD In Illinois | Number SOLD Out of State |
|----------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Muskrat | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Mink | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Raccoon | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Opossum | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Red Fox | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Gray Fox | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Beaver | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Skunk | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Weasel | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Coyote | _____ | _____ | _____ |

7. Did you have any accidental catches last season (birds, dogs, cats, etc.)? Yes No
If so, please list what kind and how many:

8. Did you also HUNT furbearers with gun and/or dogs during the 1979-80 season? Yes No
If yes, please give the number of each kind taken:
 Raccoon _____ Red Fox _____ Skunk _____
 Opossum _____ Gray Fox _____ Coyote _____

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!!
NO POSTAGE REQUIRED**

Figure 6. Questionnaire form for post-season mail survey of Illinois resident trappers, 1979-80 season.

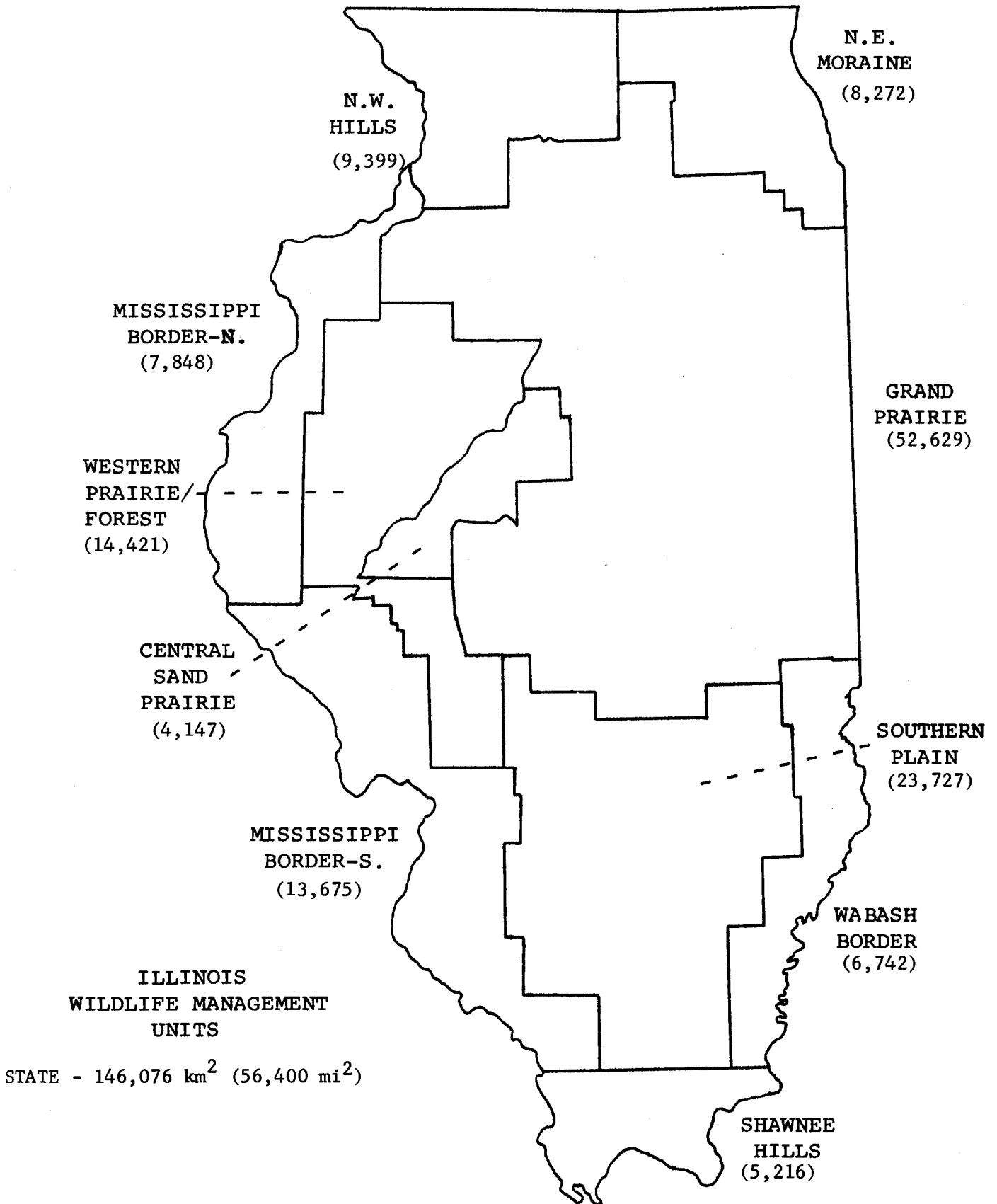


Figure 7. Area (km²) of wildlife management units in Illinois.



Figure 8. Furbearer management zones for the 1979-80 season.

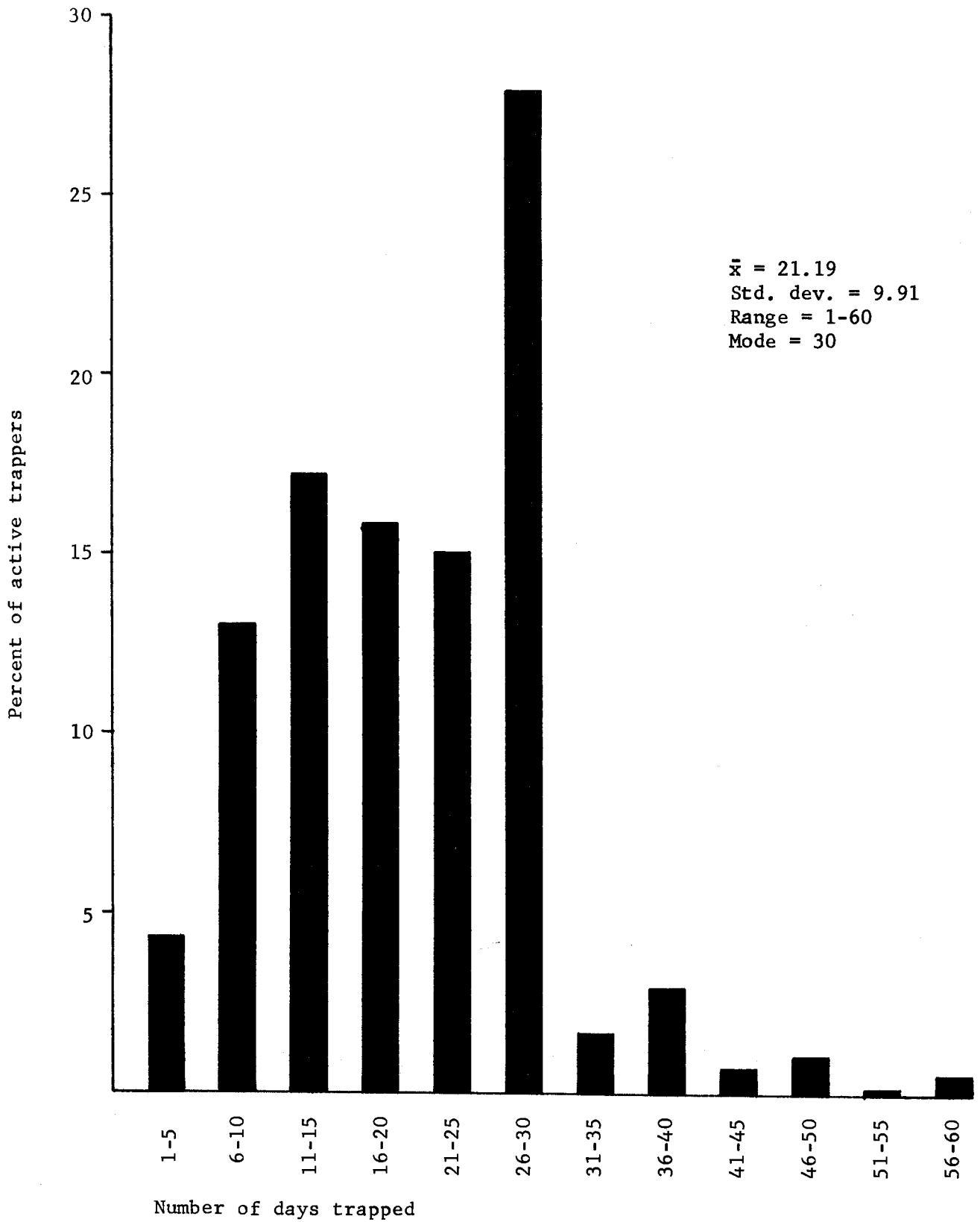


Figure 9. Distribution of number of days trapped per active trapper in Illinois, 1979-80 season (n = 911).

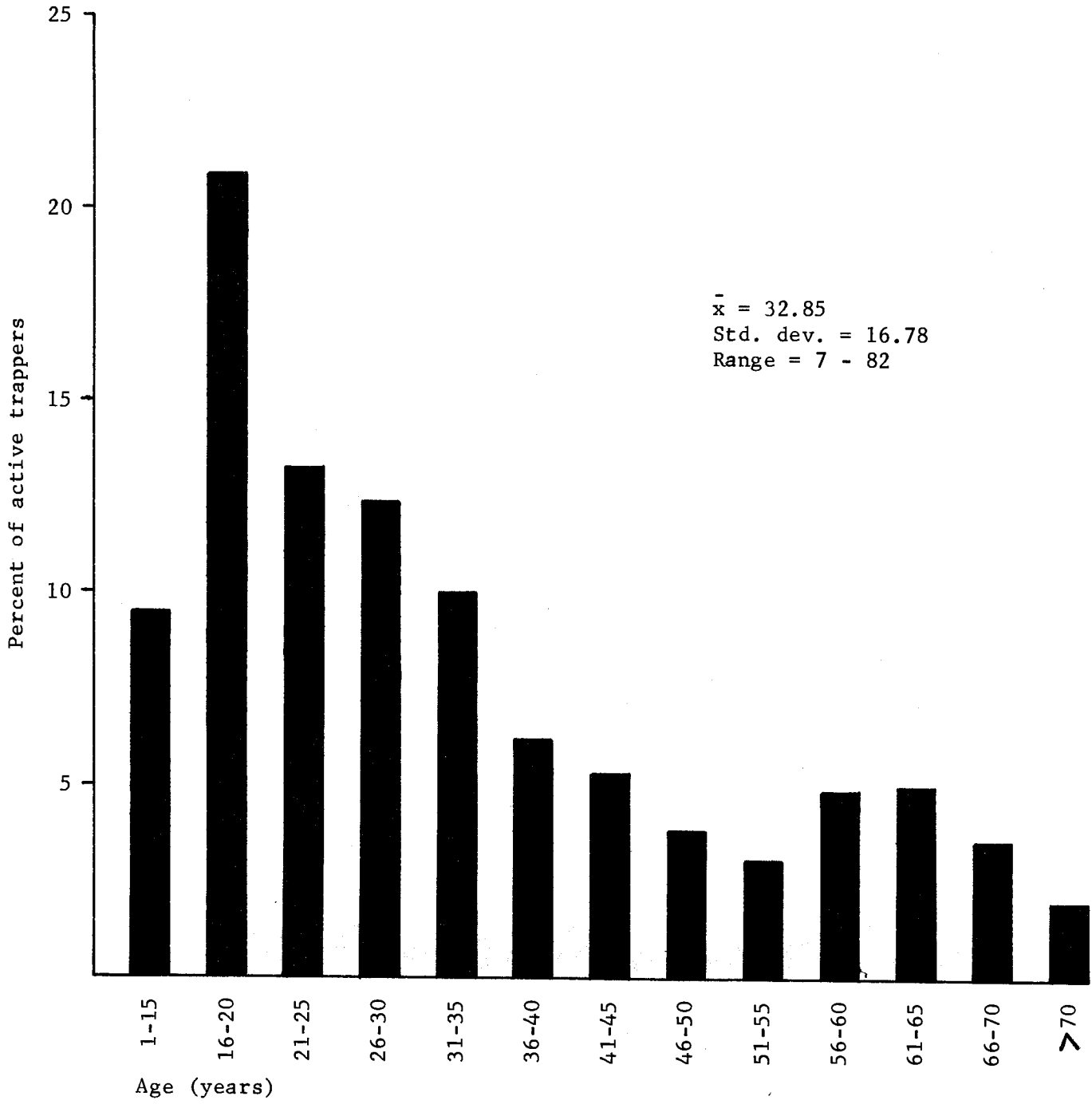


Figure 10. Age of active trappers in Illinois, 1979-80 season (n = 918).

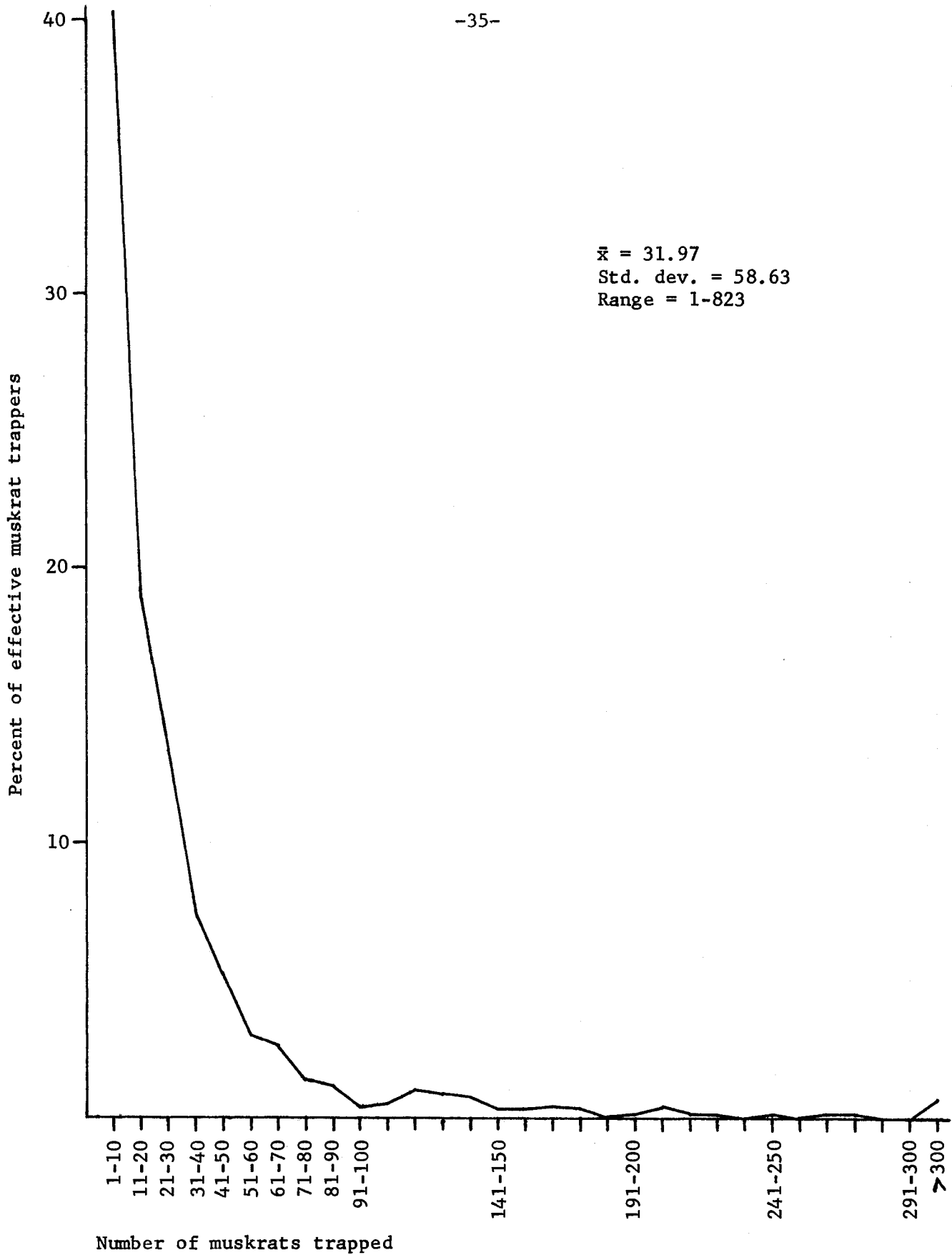


Figure 11. Distribution of muskrats trapped per effective muskrat trapper in Illinois, 1979-80 season (n = 730).

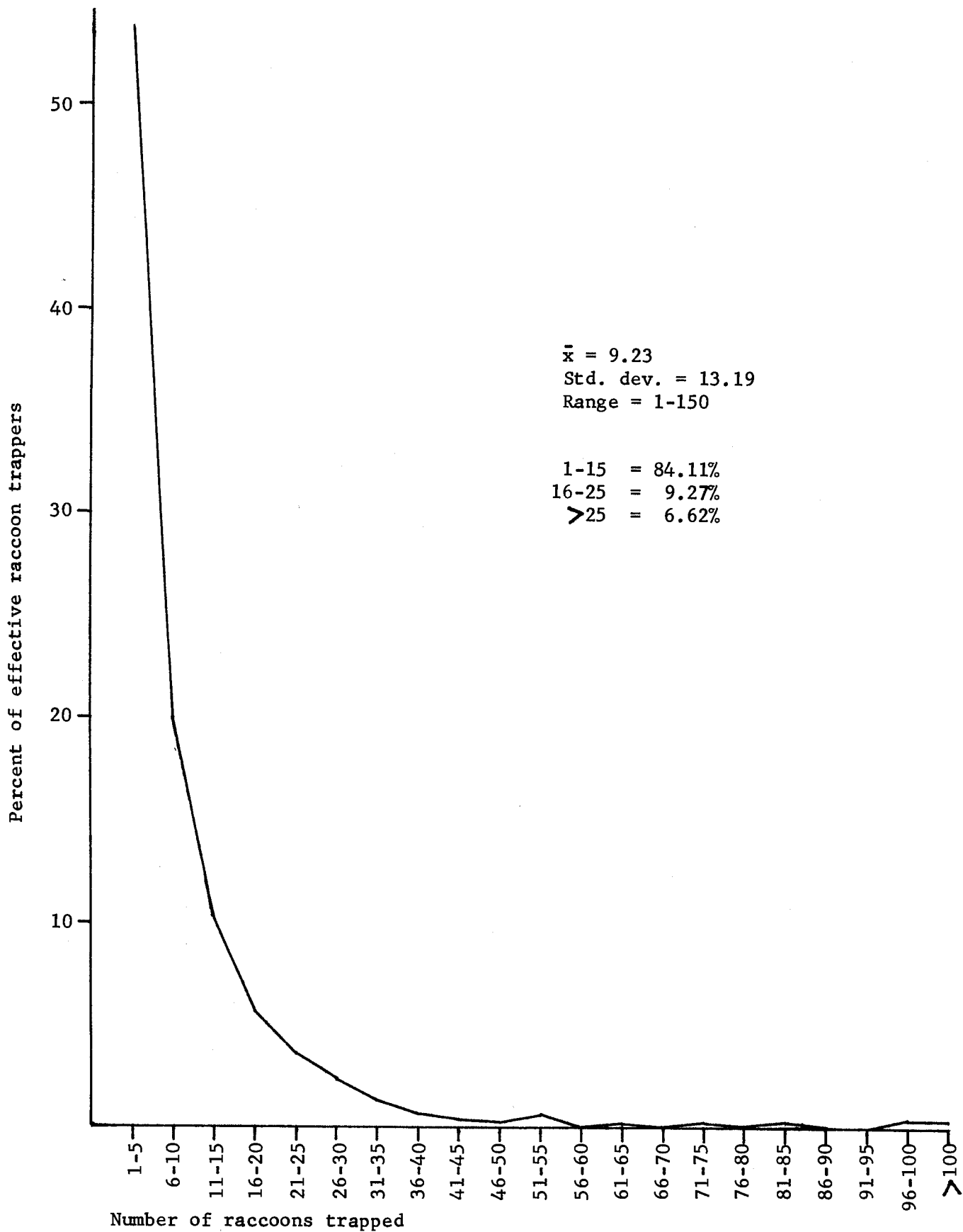


Figure 12. Distribution of number of raccoons trapped per effective raccoon trapper in Illinois, 1979-80 season (n = 755).

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
639.10973T689 C001
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1979/80



3 0112 017685238