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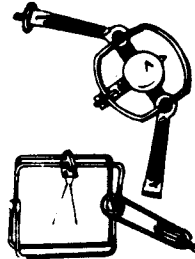
Federal Aid Project No. W-49-R (33)

Study XV: Wildlife Harvests

Job No. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1985-86

By

G. F. Hubert, Jr.



Michael B. Witte, Director

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

S. W. Harrison
P-R Coordinator

J. H. Moak, Chief
Div. of Wildlife Resources

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Study XV - Job No. 3

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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO. W-49-R-33

STUDY XV: Wildlife Harvests

JOB NO. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1985-86

ABSTRACT: A stratified random sample of 1,200 persons who purchased 1985 series trapping licenses in Illinois was surveyed after the trapping season. The licensees were contacted by first class mail in three mailings. Questionnaires were deliverable to 1,195 (99.58%) recipients from which 955 useable replies were received (79.92% return). Of these, 82.83% were active, i.e. set one or more traps during the season. Only 3.54% of the active trappers were ineffective, i.e. caught nothing.

The 1985-86 survey covered 10 furbearer species. Findings are presented: 1) on a statewide basis, 2) for each of the 10 wildlife management units in the state, and 3) for the two furbearer management zones currently in use. Data 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) 5,549 (150,267), mink (Mustela vison) 3,239 (8,681), raccoon (Procyon lotor) 6,528 (71,090), opossum (Didelphis marsupialis) 4,309 (29,215), red fox (Vulpes vulpes) 1,710 (6,276), gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus) 1,030 (2,307), beaver (Castor canadensis) 1,579 (6,411), striped skunk (Mephitis mephitis) 1,540 (4,528), weasel (Mustela frenata, M. nivalis) 130 (160), and coyote (Canis latrans) 1,250 (4,062).

The average trapper had traps set for 23 days (or nights). Active trappers averaged 36 years of age. Only 17.66% of the trappers indicated they belonged to a trapping club or organization. The majority of effective muskrat trappers (64.32%) caught 20 or fewer muskrats during the season. Most effective raccoon trappers (82.54%) harvested from 1 to 15 raccoons for the entire season and 91.42% trapped 25 or less. Trappers sold 94.74% of their 1985-86 catch of which 4.03% was sold out-of-state. Accidental catches were reported by 30.40% of the trappers who responded to the survey. The accidental catch rate was 2.51 or one accidental catch for every 40 furbearers trapped. 30.03% of the licensed trappers also hunted furbearers, primarily raccoons. The harvest of pelts by hunting trappers amounted to 11.20% 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-33

STUDY XV: Wildlife Harvests

JOB NO. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1985-86

OBJECTIVE: To collect information on the annual 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 five resident and non-resident trapping licenses in the 1985 series (total sales estimate 9,547 - 1 July 1986) (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 1978-82 trapping license sales was drawn. The size of the sub-sample was set at 1,200 since this quantity would result in 900 to 1,000 useable replies for adequate reliability at the statewide level. Address cards in the drawn sample were manually marked with serial numbers to provide for the removal of respondents and undeliverables from the initial and first follow-up mailings.

An initial and two 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 (22.0¢) was used for all mailings.

Questionnaires were returned via business reply permit printed on the back of the form. Those received were checked for useableness, and the respondents were initially placed into one of two categories: inactive - those who did not set traps for furbearers during the 1985-86 seasons, or active - those who did set one or more traps for furbearers during the 1985-86 seasons. Active trappers were further classified as: effective - those who caught one or more furbearers of the species in question, or ineffective - those who did not catch any furbearers. Next, the county trapped in most, species trapped, 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. Jude Shavlik, 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 n_1 = number of licensees in
sample who effectively
trapped species in
question

x_i = reported season catch
for species in question

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

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:

1985-86 Trapping Seasons

The 1985-86 fur-bearing mammal trapping seasons varied from 35 to 108 days in length (Table 1). The seasons for all species except beaver, red fox, gray fox, and coyote lasted 47 days in the northern management zone and 45 days in the southern management zone (Fig. 8). Opening dates were 13 November 1985 and 25 November 1985, respectively. Red fox, gray fox, and coyote could be legally trapped for 35 days in the northern zone and 45 days in the southern zone starting 25 November 1985. Beaver trapping season was 96 or 108 days in length depending on zone and opened simultaneously with all other species except fox and coyote. No bag limits were in effect for any furbearer. Special regulations reduced the length of the beaver season to 47 days along the Mississippi River from Interstate 80 north to the Wisconsin state line as a protective measure for river otter (Lutra canadensis).

1985-86 Trapper Mail Survey

The initial mailing of 1,200 questionnaires was made on 27 January 1986. The two follow-up mailings to non-respondents were made on 3 March (657) and 27 March (373) and closed out on 25 April 1986. Approximately two days preparation was required for each mailing.

A total of 1,195 (99.58%) licensees in the 1985-86 survey sample was reached by the Postal Service via first class mail. The five remaining questionnaires were returned as undeliverable. There were 955 useable replies received from the licensees contacted, representing a 79.92% response on the number delivered. Of these respondents, 791 (82.83%) reported that they set one or more traps for furbearers during the season and were classified as active. A total of 763 (96.46%) active trappers were effective, i.e. caught one or more furbearers, and the remaining 28 (3.54%) were ineffective, i.e. caught nothing.

a. Number of days trapped

Active trappers had traps set an average of 23 days (or nights) during the 1985-86 season (Fig. 9). The maximum number of days a trapper could have legally trapped was 108. However, only 1.59% of the respondents stated they had traps set for over 47 days, and just 23.64% trapped over 30 days. The vast majority of trapping activity is concentrated during the initial 15 to 30 days of the muskrat, mink, and raccoon seasons. In 1984-85, Illinois trappers had traps set an average of 26 days during a 108-day season (Hubert 1985). The mean number of days trapped in 1983-84 was 23.06 (Hubert 1984).

b. Age of trappers

Active trappers in 1985-86 had an average age of 36 years (Fig. 10). The majority (52.19%) was 32 years of age or younger. In fact, 38.45% were less than 26 years old. Hubert (1983) reported the average age of Illinois trappers was 34.16 years in 1982-83. The observed age distribution probably reflects the combined effects of several factors. First, the attrition of

young (i.e. novice) trappers appears to be quite high; many individuals stop trapping around the time 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 over 55 years of age. In 1982-83, 16.44% of the active trappers were 18 years of age or younger (Hubert 1983) compared with 11.69% this past season (Fig. 10). The slight drop in percentage of young trappers may reflect reduced interest in trapping in recent years. However, the decline in the younger age classes does not lessen the need for a formal trapper education program since a large portion of trappers are still young (and probably lack experience).

c. Trapper organization membership

Illinois trappers have a low rate of participation in trapper organizations such as Fur-takers of America, National Trappers Association, and the Illinois Trappers Association. Only 17.66% of the individuals who responded (n = 940) indicated they belonged to a trapping club or organization. Evidently, most Illinois trappers believe the cost of organization membership outweighs the benefits received or their interest level is not high enough to warrant club membership. When trapping license sales totaled 19,845 in 1980-81, 11.11% of all active trappers stated they were members of a trapping organization (Hubert 1981). Perhaps organization members are more likely to continue trapping regardless of pelt values.

d. Trapper harvest summary

A statewide summary for the 10 species of furbearers surveyed in 1985-86 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 estimated density of effective trappers and pelts harvested in each of the 10 wildlife management units is provided in Tables 3 through 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 one 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 1985-86, effective raccoon trappers were the most numerous and their projected number varied by only $\pm 4.40\%$. The 95% confidence interval projections for less numerous opossum trappers varied by $\pm 7.12\%$ and for uncommon weasel trappers by $\pm 54.62\%$.

e. Distribution of harvest among effective trappers

The muskrat and raccoon were the two most important furbearers trapped during the 1985-86 season in terms of number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total harvest (Table 2). The reported number of muskrats

harvested by 555 effective muskrat trappers ranged from 1 to 447 and averaged 27.08 (Tables 2, 13, 14, Fig. 11). During the season, 64.32% of these trappers harvested 20 or fewer muskrats and 94.23% caught 100 or less. All values are similar to those obtained in the 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84, and 1984-85 surveys (Hubert 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985). Relatively few trappers who responded, 83 (14.95%) stated their catch averaged one 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 653 effective raccoon trappers who reported averaged 10.89 and ranged from 1 to 253 (Tables 2, 13, 14, Fig. 12). Less than the average season catch was taken by 68.76% of these trappers (Fig. 12). For the entire season, 82.54% harvested 15 or fewer raccoons and 91.42% trapped 25 or less. Only 21 (3.22%) of the effective raccoon trappers reported making an average daily catch of one or more raccoons throughout the season.

The harvest of the other eight open season furbearers was distributed among effective trappers much like the muskrat and raccoon harvests (Table 15). For six of these species, 16% or less of the effective trappers made season catches exceeding five pelts. The exceptions were: effective opossum trappers - 35.97% of these individuals trapped more than five opossums during the season, and effective beaver trappers - 22.15% caught more than five beavers during the season.

The above data emphasize the inapplicability of bag limits (both daily and seasonal) to furbearer trapping in Illinois. 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 highly successful trappers. Bag limits could potentially increase harvest because of their goal-setting effect.

f. Pelt sales

Trapper sold an estimated 94.74% of their catch during 1985-86 (Table 2). The previous season (1984-85), 95.90% of all trapped pelts were sold (Hubert 1985). The portion of each species sold ranged from a low of 25.57% for striped skunk to a high of 98.99% for raccoon. The fraction of pelts sold in Illinois and out-of-state also varied among species (Table 16). Overall, 95.97% of the marketed portion of the trapped catch was sold in Illinois and 4.03% out-of-state. Hubert (1985) found that Illinois trappers sold 4.79% of their pelts outside the state in 1984-85. Resident trappers sold an average of 4.62% of their pelts out-of-state during the last five seasons (Hubert 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, this study).

g. Non-target catches

Accidental catches were reported by 290 (30.40%) of the trappers who responded to the 1985-86 survey (Table 17). In comparison, 36.66% of the active trappers made non-target catches. Trappers making accidental catches averaged 2.42 for the year. The estimated total number of non-target animals caught by trappers during the season was 7,104. As stated earlier, the

estimated total furbearer catch by trappers was 282,997 (Table 2). Therefore, the accidental catch rate was 2.51% or one accidental catch for every 40 furbearers trapped. If rats and mice are excluded from the accidental catch list, the non-target catch rate would be 2.42%. Many respondents indicated that some or all of the animals they accidentally captured were released. During the 1984-85 season, resident trappers had an accidental catch rate of 2.80% (Hubert 1985).

h. Fur hunting by trappers

A total of 270 (30.03%) trappers reported hunting furbearers with gun and/or dogs in 1985-86 (Table 18). Their total hunting harvest was 3,171 pelts or an average of 11.74 per hunting trapper. This is equivalent to 11.20% of the total trapped catch in the sample. The raccoon was hunted by more trappers than any other species. Next in popularity was the coyote. In 1984-85, 30.44% of the trappers in Illinois also hunted furbearers (Hubert 1985). Sampson (1973) reported 33.6% of the trappers in Missouri were fur hunters. Obviously there is much overlap between the user groups designated as fur trappers and fur hunters.

i. Management zone data summary

Management zone and statewide data summaries for each of the 10 species of furbearers surveyed in 1979-80 (Hubert 1980), 1980-81 (Hubert 1981), 1981-82 (Hubert 1982), 1982-83 (Hubert 1983), 1983-84 (Hubert 1984), 1984-85 (Hubert 1985), and 1985-86 are presented in Tables 19 through 28. The data for each species include estimated number and density of effective trappers, average season catch, estimated total trapper harvest, and trapper harvest per unit area. The northern and southern zones listed (Fig. 13) are nearly identical to the zones employed for regulatory management from 1979-80 through 1985-86 (Fig. 8).

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, Illinois 62706.

PREPARED BY: G. F. Hubert, Jr.
Furbearer Biologist
Special Projects Section
Div. of Wildlife Resources

DATE: 21 August 1986

APPROVED BY: T. B. Miller
T. B. Miller
Supervisor
Special Projects Section
Div. of Wildlife Resources

DATE: 5 Jan 1987

GH:lg

Table 1. Illinois fur-bearing mammal trapping seasons for 1985-86.

Species	Trapping season	
	Northern zone	Southern zone
Muskrat, Mink, Raccoon, Opossum, Striped skunk, Weasel	13 Nov - 29 Dec (47) ^a	25 Nov - 8 Jan (45)
Beaver	13 Nov - 28 Feb (108) ^b	25 Nov - 28 Feb (96)
Red Fox, Gray Fox, Coyote	25 Nov - 29 Dec (35)	25 Nov - 8 Jan (45)

^a Numbers in parentheses are season lengths in days.

^b Those portions of JoDaviess, Carroll, Whiteside, and Rock Island counties lying west of Illinois Rt. 84 and US Rt. 20, from Interstate-80 north to the Wisconsin line were open to beaver trapping from 13 Nov. - 29 Dec. 1985 only.

Table 2. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of Illinois resident trappers, 1985-86 season (n = 955).

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	5,549	58.12	27.08	150,267	98.47	147,968
Mink	3,239	33.93	2.68	8,681	98.30	8,533
Raccoon	6,528	68.38	10.89	71,090	98.99	70,372
Opossum	4,309	45.13	6.78	29,215	76.00	22,203
Red fox	1,710	17.91	3.67	6,276	97.74	6,134
Gray fox	1,030	10.79	2.24	2,307	95.37	2,200
Beaver	1,579	16.54	4.06	6,411	89.76	5,755
Striped skunk	1,540	16.13	2.94	4,528	25.57	1,158
Weasel	130	1.36	1.23	160	43.75	70
Coyote	1,250	13.09	3.25	4,062	91.20	3,705

^a n= 899

Table 3. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 555).

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	610 (10.99) ^b	6.49	43.54	26,559 (17.67) ^b	282.57
Northeast Moraine	360 (6.49)	4.35	24.08	8,669 (5.77)	104.80
Mississippi Border-North	360 (6.49)	4.59	27.25	9,810 (6.53)	125.00
Mississippi Border-South	570 (10.27)	4.17	30.79	17,550 (11.68)	128.34
Western Prairie/Forest	540 (9.73)	3.74	18.24	9,850 (6.55)	68.30
Central Sand Prairie	210 (3.78)	5.06	34.62	7,270 (4.84)	175.31
Grand Prairie	1,669 (30.09)	3.17	30.01	50,087 (33.33)	95.17
Southern Plain	900 (16.22)	3.79	18.11	16,299 (10.85)	68.69
Wabash Border	220 (3.96)	3.26	13.50	2,970 (1.97)	44.05
Shawnee Hills	110 (1.98)	2.11	11.09	1,220 (0.81)	23.39
Statewide	5,549 (100.00)	3.80	27.08	150,267 (100.00)	102.87

^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 4. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 324).

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	290 (8.95) ^b	3.09	1.79	519 (5.98) ^b	5.52
Northeast Moraine	240 (7.41)	2.90	3.29	790 (9.10)	9.55
Mississippi Border-North	170 (5.25)	2.17	1.41	240 (2.76)	3.06
Mississippi Border-South	340 (10.49)	2.49	3.85	1,309 (15.08)	9.57
Western Prairie/Forest	240 (7.41)	1.66	1.96	470 (5.42)	3.26
Central Sand Prairie	100 (3.09)	2.41	2.00	200 (2.30)	4.82
Grand Prairie	1,059 (32.71)	2.01	2.92	3,092 (35.61)	5.88
Southern Plain	560 (17.28)	2.36	2.70	1,512 (17.42)	6.37
Wabash Border	160 (4.94)	2.37	1.94	310 (3.57)	4.60
Shawnee Hills	80 (2.47)	1.53	3.00	240 (2.76)	4.60
Statewide	3,239 100.00)	2.22	2.68	8,681 (100.00)	5.94

^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 5. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 653).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper ^a harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
Northwest Hills	580 (8.88) ^b	6.17	8.31	4,820 (6.78) ^b	51.28
Northeast Moraine	390 (5.97)	4.71	10.97	4,280 (6.02)	51.74
Mississippi Border-North	420 (6.43)	5.35	12.86	5,396 (7.59)	68.76
Mississippi Border-South	690 (10.57)	5.05	10.04	6,931 (9.75)	50.68
Western Prairie/Forest	720 (11.03)	4.99	10.72	7,720 (10.86)	53.53
Central Sand Prairie	290 (4.44)	6.99	8.72	2,531 (3.56)	61.03
Grand Prairie	1,979 (30.32)	3.76	12.59	24,917 (35.05)	47.34
Southern Plain	1,019 (15.62)	4.29	9.63	9,818 (13.81)	41.38
Wabash Border	290 (4.44)	4.30	11.34	3,291 (4.63)	48.81
Shawnee Hills	150 (2.30)	2.88	9.27	1,396 (1.95)	26.57
Statewide	6,528 (100.00)	4.47	10.89	71,090 (100.00)	48.67

^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 6. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 431).

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	370	(8.58) ^b 3.94	4.35	1,610 (5.51) ^b	17.13
Northeast Moraine	230	(5.34) 2.78	6.57	1,510 (5.17)	18.25
Mississippi Border-North	220	(5.10) 2.80	10.77	2,369 (8.11)	30.19
Mississippi Border-South	430	(9.98) 3.14	10.47	4,499 (15.40)	32.90
Western Prairie/Forest	490	(11.37) 3.40	5.88	2,881 (9.86)	19.98
Central Sand Prairie	130	(3.02) 3.13	7.23	941 (3.22)	22.69
Grand Prairie	1,359	(31.55) 2.58	5.65	7,678 (26.28)	14.59
Southern Plain	780	(18.10) 3.29	7.29	5,688 (19.47)	23.97
Wabash Border	220	(5.10) 3.26	8.05	1,770 (6.06)	26.25
Shawnee Hills	80	(1.86) 1.53	3.38	269 (0.92)	5.16
Statewide	4,309	(100.00) 2.95	6.78	29,215 (100.00)	20.00

^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 7. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 171).

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	50	(2.92) ^b	2.20	111	(1.76) ^b
Northeast Moraine	150	(8.77)	7.53	1,131	(18.02)
Mississippi Border-North	100	(5.85)	1.90	190	(3.03)
Mississippi Border-South	130	(7.60)	2.62	340	(5.42)
Western Prairie/Forest	90	(5.27)	3.67	330	(5.26)
Central Sand Prairie	50	(2.92)	3.40	170	(2.71)
Grand Prairie	650	(38.01)	4.35	2,833	(45.14)
Southern Plain	350	(20.47)	2.54	891	(14.20)
Wabash Border	90	(5.27)	1.44	130	(2.07)
Shawnee Hills	50	(2.92)	3.00	150	(2.39)
Statewide	1,710	(100.00)	3.67	6,276	(100.00)

^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 8. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 103).

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	80	(7.77) ^b	1.63	130	(5.63) ^b
Northeast Moraine	140	(13.59)	2.29	319	(13.85)
Mississippi Border-North	10	(0.97)	1.00	10	(0.43)
Mississippi Border-South	100	(9.71)	2.10	210	(9.09)
Western Prairie/Forest	--	--	--	--	--
Central Sand Prairie	30	(2.91)	1.67	50	(2.17)
Grand Prairie	280	(27.18)	2.11	589	(25.54)
Southern Plain	290	(28.16)	2.76	799	(34.63)
Wabash Border	70	(6.80)	1.86	130	(5.63)
Shawnee Hills	30	(2.91)	2.33	70	(3.03)
<u>Statewide</u>	<u>1,030</u>	<u>(100.00)</u>	<u>2.24</u>	<u>2,307</u>	<u>(100.00)</u>

^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 9. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 158).

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	180 (11.40) ^b	1.92	2.00	360 (5.62) ^b	3.83
Northeast Moraine	110 (6.96)	1.33	3.91	430 (6.71)	5.20
Mississippi Border-North	120 (7.59)	1.53	6.17	740 (11.54)	9.43
Mississippi Border-South	120 (7.59)	0.88	6.00	720 (11.23)	5.27
Western Prairie/Forest	120 (7.59)	0.83	2.58	310 (4.84)	2.15
Central Sand Prairie	40 (2.53)	0.96	2.75	110 (1.72)	2.65
Grand Prairie	639 (40.51)	1.21	3.61	2,311 (36.04)	4.39
Southern Plain	150 (9.50)	0.63	5.53	830 (12.95)	3.50
Wabash Border	40 (2.53)	0.59	4.75	190 (2.96)	2.82
Shawnee Hills	60 (3.80)	1.15	6.83	410 (6.39)	7.86
Statewide	1,579 (100.00)	1.08	4.06	6,411 (100.00)	4.39

^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 10. Summary of striped skunk trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 154).

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	80 (5.19) ^b	0.85	2.63	210 (4.64) ^b	2.23
Northeast Moraine	140 (9.09)	1.69	2.71	381 (8.41)	4.61
Mississippi Border-North	50 (3.25)	0.64	4.40	220 (4.87)	2.80
Mississippi Border-South	140 (9.09)	1.02	2.21	311 (6.86)	2.27
Western Prairie/Forest	140 (9.09)	0.97	3.00	421 (9.29)	2.92
Central Sand Prairie	70 (4.55)	1.69	2.43	170 (3.76)	4.10
Grand Prairie	620 (40.26)	1.18	3.48	2,164 (47.79)	4.11
Southern Plain	200 (12.99)	0.84	2.05	411 (9.07)	1.73
Wabash Border	80 (5.19)	1.19	2.13	170 (3.76)	2.52
Shawnee Hills	20 (1.30)	0.38	3.50	70 (1.55)	1.34
Statewide	1,540 (100.00)	1.05	2.94	4,528 (100.00)	3.10

^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 11. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 13).

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	20 (15.39) ^b	0.21	1.00	20 (12.50) ^b	0.21
Northeast Moraine	--	--	--	--	--
Mississippi Border-North	10 (7.69)	0.13	2.00	20 (12.50)	0.25
Mississippi Border-South	10 (7.69)	0.07	1.00	10 (6.25)	0.07
Western Prairie/Forest	--	--	--	--	--
Central Sand Prairie	--	--	--	--	--
Grand Prairie	50 (38.46)	0.10	1.20	60 (37.50)	0.11
Southern Plain	20 (15.39)	0.08	1.00	20 (12.50)	0.08
Wabash Border	10 (7.69)	0.15	2.00	20 (12.50)	0.30
Shawnee Hills	10 (7.69)	0.19	1.00	10 (6.25)	0.19
Statewide	130 (100.00)	0.09	1.23	160 (100.00)	0.11

^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 12. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 125).

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	40 (3.20) ^b	0.43	3.25	130 (3.20) ^b	1.38
Northeast Moraine	30 (2.40)	0.36	1.00	30 (0.74)	0.36
Mississippi Border-North	110 (8.80)	1.40	3.64	400 (9.85)	5.10
Mississippi Border-South	130 (10.40)	0.95	5.31	691 (17.00)	5.05
Western Prairie/Forest	110 (8.80)	0.76	1.55	170 (4.19)	1.18
Central Sand Prairie	30 (2.40)	0.72	2.00	60 (1.48)	1.45
Grand Prairie	440 (35.20)	0.84	3.36	1,481 (36.45)	2.81
Southern Plain	230 (18.40)	0.97	2.78	640 (15.76)	2.70
Wabash Border	70 (5.60)	1.04	3.14	220 (5.42)	3.26
Shawnee Hills	60 (4.80)	1.15	4.00	240 (5.91)	4.60
Statewide	1,250 (100.00)	0.86	3.25	4,062 (100.00)	2.78

^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 1985-86 post-season mail survey of Illinois resident trappers (n = 955).

Species	Total effective trappers	Percent effective trappers	Total season catch
Muskrat	555	58.12	15,031
Mink	324	33.93	869
Raccoon	653	68.38	7,110
Opossum	431	45.13	2,922
Red fox	171	17.91	627
Gray fox	103	10.79	231
Beaver	158	16.54	641
Striped skunk	154	16.13	452
Weasel	13	1.36	16
Coyote	125	13.09	406

Table 14. Estimated number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total trapper harvest by species in Illinois for 1985-86 season based on post-season trapper mail survey (n = 955).

Species	Estimated number of effective trappers		Estimated average season catch		Estimated total harvest	
Muskrat	5,549 ±	305 ^a	27.08 ±	3.52 ^a	150,267 ±	21,590 ^a
Mink	3,239 ±	293	2.68 ±	0.33	8,681 ±	1,353
Raccoon	6,528 ±	287	10.89 ±	1.26	71,090 ±	8,960
Opossum	4,309 ±	307	6.78 ±	0.86	29,215 ±	4,302
Red fox	1,710 ±	237	3.67 ±	1.00	6,276 ±	1,950
Gray fox	1,030 ±	192	2.24 ±	0.46	2,307 ±	648
Beaver	1,579 ±	230	4.06 ±	0.67	6,411 ±	1,423
Striped skunk	1,540 ±	227	2.94 ±	0.52	4,528 ±	1,055
Weasel	130 ±	71	1.23 ±	0.24	160 ±	93
Coyote	1,250 ±	208	3.25 ±	0.92	4,062 ±	1,346

^a 95% confidence interval.

Table 15. Distribution of harvest among effective trappers for 8 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey.

Total season catch	Percentage of effective trappers for species							
	Mink (324) ^a	Opossum (431)	Red fox (171)	Gray fox (103)	Beaver (158)	Striped skunk (154)	Weasel (13)	Coyote (125)
1	47.53	15.31	43.27	60.19	32.28	40.91	76.92	50.40
2	21.91	14.39	23.39	13.59	17.09	22.08	23.08	12.80
3	12.65	12.06	8.19	10.68	12.66	10.39	--	12.80
4	4.94	11.83	5.85	1.94	10.76	10.39	--	6.40
5	2.78	10.44	4.09	4.85	5.06	5.84	--	2.40
6	1.23	7.89	2.92	4.85	5.06	3.90	--	6.40
7	2.78	3.94	1.17	--	2.53	--	--	2.40
8	0.62	3.02	1.75	--	1.90	1.30	--	0.80
9	0.93	1.39	1.17	1.94	1.27	0.65	--	--
10	0.62	3.94	1.17	0.97	2.53	1.95	--	0.80
11	0.62	0.46	0.58	--	1.90	--	--	0.80
12	0.62	2.09	2.34	--	2.53	0.65	--	--
13	0.31	0.70	--	--	0.63	--	--	0.80
14	0.62	0.93	0.58	--	--	0.65	--	--
15	0.62	3.02	1.17	--	0.63	--	--	--
16-20	0.93	3.94	0.58	0.97	2.53	--	--	1.60
21-25	0.31	1.62	0.58	--	--	1.30	--	0.80
> 25	--	3.02	1.17	--	0.63	--	--	0.80

^a Numbers in parentheses indicate sample size for species.

Table 16. Distribution of pelt sales by trappers for 10 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1985-86 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 899).

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	13,995	13,566	96.93	429	3.07
Mink	809	750	92.71	59	7.29
Raccoon	6,557	6,205	94.63	352	5.37
Opossum	2,156	2,083	96.61	73	3.39
Red fox	518	485	93.63	33	6.37
Gray fox	206	197	95.63	9	4.37
Beaver	526	487	92.59	39	7.41
Striped skunk	112	110	98.21	2	1.79
Weasel	7	7	100.00	0	0.00
Coyote	311	292	93.89	19	6.11
Total or Average	25,197	24,182	95.97	1,015	4.03

Table 17. Summary of non-target catches by trappers in Illinois, 1985-86 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 954).

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	134	335	2.50	14.05	3,353
Dog	84	124	1.48	8.81	1,245
Squirrel	17	30	1.76	1.78	299
Rabbit	23	50	2.17	2.41	499
Rat	2	19	9.50	0.21	190
Mouse	1	6	6.00	0.10	57
Crow	21	30	1.76	2.20	370
Blue jay	9	12	1.33	0.94	119
Hawk	8	12	1.50	0.84	120
Owl	5	5	1.00	0.52	50
Bird - Unspecified	40	63	1.58	4.19	632
Other (e.g. ground hog, fish, frog)	11	17	1.55	1.15	170
Totals	290	703	2.42	30.40	7,104

Table 18. Summary of fur hunting activities of trappers in Illinois, 1985-86 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 899).

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	199	2,525	12.69	22.14	26,823
Opossum	60	314	5.23	6.67	3,330
Red fox	43	92	2.14	4.78	977
Gray fox	14	36	2.57	1.56	383
Striped skunk	6	10	1.67	0.67	107
Coyote	55	194	3.53	6.12	2,062
All species	270	3,171	11.74	30.03	33,682

Table 19. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 730; 747; 696; 691; 646; 641; 555).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total		Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
				trapper harvest	trapper harvest	
NORTHERN ZONE						
1979-80	9,224 (62.19) ^a	11.27	39.63 (±6.48) ^b	365,592	(77.10) ^a	446.73
1980-81	8,745 (61.71)	10.69	40.86 (±5.19)	357,305	(75.31)	436.61
1981-82	7,590 (63.79)	9.27	27.69 (±3.05)	210,246	(78.01)	256.90
1982-83	6,316 (61.36)	7.72	35.33 (±4.91)	223,160	(75.86)	272.69
1983-84	4,922 (65.79)	6.01	35.59 (±4.33)	175,148	(82.66)	214.02
1984-85	5,221 (64.27)	6.38	30.43 (±3.67)	158,837	(72.99)	194.09
1985-86	3,319 (59.82)	4.06	31.41 (±5.17)	104,240	(69.37)	127.38
SOUTHERN ZONE						
1979-80	5,608 (37.81)	8.73	19.37 (±3.07)	108,587	(22.90)	169.04
1980-81	5,426 (38.29)	8.45	21.59 (±4.32)	117,140	(24.69)	182.35
1981-82	4,309 (36.21)	6.71	13.75 (±2.25)	59,266	(21.99)	92.26
1982-83	3,977 (38.64)	6.19	17.85 (±3.29)	71,014	(24.14)	110.55
1983-84	2,560 (34.21)	3.99	14.36 (±2.91)	36,742	(17.34)	57.20
1984-85	2,902 (35.73)	4.52	20.26 (±2.97)	58,778	(27.01)	91.50
1985-86	2,230 (40.18)	3.47	20.65 (±4.08)	46,027	(30.63)	71.65
STATEWIDE						
1979-80	14,832	10.15	31.97 (±4.25)	474,179		324.61
1980-81	14,171	9.70	33.48 (±3.66)	474,445		324.79
1981-82	11,899	8.15	22.65 (±2.17)	269,512		184.50
1982-83	10,293	7.05	28.58 (±3.33)	294,174		201.38
1983-84	7,482	5.12	28.32 (±3.11)	211,890		145.05
1984-85	8,123	5.56	26.79 (±2.61)	217,615		148.97
1985-86	5,549	3.80	27.08 (±3.52)	150,267		102.87

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 20. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 419; 501; 471; 445; 439; 410; 324).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	5,040 (59.19) ^a	6.16	2.86 (±0.43) ^b	14,428 (61.17) ^a	17.63
1980-81	5,559 (58.48)	6.79	3.13 (±0.45)	17,403 (58.49)	21.27
1981-82	5,146 (63.91)	6.29	3.12 (±0.36)	16,029 (64.01)	19.59
1982-83	3,814 (57.53)	4.66	2.92 (±0.39)	11,144 (60.47)	13.62
1983-84	2,942 (57.86)	3.59	2.94 (±0.40)	8,651 (58.67)	10.57
1984-85	3,092 (59.51)	3.78	3.08 (±0.48)	9,521 (60.08)	11.63
1985-86	1,780 (54.94)	2.18	2.37 (±0.41)	4,215 (48.56)	5.15
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	3,475 (40.81)	5.41	2.63 (±0.41)	9,159 (38.83)	14.26
1980-81	3,947 (41.52)	6.14	3.13 (±0.47)	12,351 (41.51)	19.23
1981-82	2,906 (36.09)	4.52	3.11 (±0.55)	9,013 (35.99)	14.03
1982-83	2,815 (42.47)	4.38	2.59 (±0.36)	7,285 (39.53)	11.34
1983-84	2,143 (42.14)	3.36	2.85 (±0.41)	6,095 (41.33)	9.49
1984-85	2,104 (40.49)	3.28	3.01 (±0.44)	6,327 (39.92)	9.85
1985-86	1,459 (45.06)	2.27	3.06 (±0.54)	4,466 (51.44)	6.95
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	8,515	5.83	2.77 (±0.31)	23,587	16.15
1980-81	9,506	6.51	3.13 (±0.33)	29,754	20.37
1981-82	8,052	5.51	3.11 (±0.30)	25,042	17.14
1982-83	6,629	4.54	2.78 (±0.27)	18,429	12.62
1983-84	5,085	3.48	2.90 (±0.29)	14,746	10.09
1984-85	5,196	3.56	3.05 (±0.33)	15,848	10.85
1985-86	3,239	2.22	2.68 (±0.33)	8,681	5.94

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 21. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 755; 756; 815; 816; 753; 727; 653).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	9,265 (60.40) ^a	11.32	9.86 (±1.36) ^b	91,338 (64.51) ^a	111.61
1980-81	8,576 (59.79)	10.48	10.44 (±1.70)	89,481 (65.39)	109.34
1981-82	8,411 (60.37)	10.28	9.96 (±1.12)	83,766 (64.30)	102.36
1982-83	7,150 (58.82)	8.74	11.51 (±1.54)	82,316 (65.18)	100.59
1983-84	5,247 (60.16)	6.41	9.55 (±1.26)	50,123 (63.29)	61.25
1984-85	5,564 (60.39)	6.80	13.36 (±1.76)	74,326 (61.82)	90.82
1985-86	3,899 (59.72)	4.76	11.48 (±1.94)	44,787 (63.00)	54.73
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	6,075 (39.60)	9.46	8.27 (±1.17)	50,250 (35.49)	78.22
1980-81	5,768 (40.21)	8.98	8.21 (±1.05)	47,361 (34.61)	73.73
1981-82	5,522 (39.63)	8.60	8.42 (±0.98)	46,508 (35.70)	72.40
1982-83	5,005 (41.18)	7.79	8.79 (±1.16)	43,974 (34.82)	68.45
1983-84	3,475 (39.84)	5.41	8.37 (±1.08)	29,073 (36.71)	45.26
1984-85	3,649 (39.61)	5.68	12.58 (±1.77)	45,904 (38.18)	71.46
1985-86	2,629 (40.28)	4.09	10.00 (±1.22)	26,303 (37.00)	40.95
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	15,340	10.50	9.23 (±0.94)	141,588	96.93
1980-81	14,344	9.82	9.54 (±1.10)	136,842	93.68
1981-82	13,933	9.54	9.35 (±0.78)	130,274	89.18
1982-83	12,155	8.32	10.39 (±1.03)	126,290	86.45
1983-84	8,722	5.97	9.08 (±0.87)	79,196	54.22
1984-85	9,213	6.31	13.05 (±1.27)	120,230	82.31
1985-86	6,528	4.47	10.89 (±1.26)	71,090	48.67

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 22. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 374; 446; 549; 542; 484; 522; 431).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	3,413 (44.92) ^a	4.17	2.68 (±0.38) ^b	9,151 (33.36) ^a	11.18
1980-81	3,832 (45.29)	4.68	3.60 (±1.12)	13,806 (36.58)	16.87
1981-82	5,266 (56.10)	6.43	4.34 (±0.53)	22,841 (42.03)	27.91
1982-83	4,543 (56.27)	5.55	6.13 (±1.03)	27,892 (51.56)	34.08
1983-84	3,139 (55.99)	3.84	6.32 (±0.98)	19,846 (54.97)	24.25
1984-85	4,056 (61.30)	4.96	6.84 (±0.94)	27,775 (61.02)	33.94
1985-86	2,389 (55.45)	2.92	6.04 (±0.99)	14,426 (49.38)	17.63
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	4,186 (55.08)	6.52	4.37 (±0.62)	18,281 (66.64)	28.46
1980-81	4,630 (54.71)	7.21	5.17 (±0.66)	23,935 (63.42)	37.26
1981-82	4,120 (43.90)	6.41	7.65 (±1.11)	31,504 (57.97)	49.04
1982-83	3,531 (43.73)	5.50	7.42 (±1.02)	26,204 (48.44)	40.79
1983-84	2,467 (44.01)	3.84	6.59 (±0.94)	16,257 (45.03)	25.31
1984-85	2,560 (38.70)	3.99	6.93 (±1.05)	17,743 (38.98)	27.62
1985-86	1,920 (44.55)	2.99	7.70 (±1.47)	14,789 (50.62)	23.02
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	7,599	5.20	3.61 (±0.39)	27,432	18.78
1980-81	8,462	5.79	4.46 (±0.63)	37,741	25.84
1981-82	9,386	6.43	5.79 (±0.59)	54,345	37.20
1982-83	8,074	5.53	6.70 (±0.74)	54,096	37.03
1983-84	5,606	3.84	6.44 (±0.69)	36,103	24.72
1984-85	6,616	4.53	6.88 (±0.70)	45,518	31.16
1985-86	4,309	2.95	6.78 (±0.86)	29,215	20.00

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 23. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 175; 180; 187; 190; 173; 210; 171).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	2,052 (57.71) ^a	2.51	4.20 (±1.92) ^b	8,616 (68.06) ^a	10.53
1980-81	2,220 (65.00)	2.71	3.02 (±1.64)	6,694 (68.54)	8.18
1981-82	1,932 (60.43)	2.36	2.95 (±0.58)	5,694 (64.53)	6.96
1982-83	1,757 (62.11)	2.15	3.27 (±0.78)	5,742 (66.55)	7.02
1983-84	1,158 (57.80)	1.42	3.05 (±0.81)	3,538 (63.28)	4.32
1984-85	1,635 (61.43)	2.00	3.93 (±1.07)	6,419 (76.82)	7.84
1985-86	910 (53.22)	1.11	4.79 (±1.80)	4,364 (69.54)	5.33
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	1,504 (42.29)	2.34	2.69 (±0.82)	4,043 (31.94)	6.29
1980-81	1,195 (35.00)	1.86	2.57 (±1.05)	3,073 (31.46)	4.78
1981-82	1,265 (39.57)	1.97	2.47 (±0.61)	3,130 (35.47)	4.87
1982-83	1,072 (37.89)	1.67	2.69 (±0.66)	2,886 (33.45)	4.49
1983-84	846 (42.20)	1.32	2.42 (±0.63)	2,053 (36.72)	3.20
1984-85	1,026 (38.57)	1.60	1.89 (±0.34)	1,937 (23.18)	3.02
1985-86	800 (46.78)	1.25	2.39 (±0.53)	1,912 (30.46)	2.98
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	3,556	2.43	3.56 (±1.17)	12,659	8.67
1980-81	3,415	2.34	2.86 (±1.12)	9,767	6.69
1981-82	3,197	2.19	2.76 (±0.43)	8,824	6.04
1982-83	2,829	1.94	3.05 (±0.54)	8,628	5.91
1983-84	2,004	1.37	2.79 (±0.54)	5,591	3.83
1984-85	2,661	1.82	3.14 (±0.68)	8,356	5.72
1985-86	1,710	1.17	3.67 (±1.00)	6,276	4.30

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 24. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 146; 139; 145; 130; 111; 102; 103).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total		Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
				trapper	harvest	
NORTHERN ZONE						
1979-80	1,301 (43.84) ^a	1.59	1.48 (±0.20) ^b	1,931 (32.87) ^a		2.36
1980-81	1,271 (48.20)	1.55	2.03 (±0.60)	2,584 (45.79)		3.16
1981-82	1,163 (46.90)	1.42	1.44 (±0.24)	1,675 (37.55)		2.05
1982-83	745 (38.46)	0.91	2.00 (±0.61)	1,488 (39.22)		1.82
1983-84	510 (39.64)	0.62	1.98 (±0.78)	1,009 (40.65)		1.23
1984-85	659 (50.98)	0.81	1.69 (±0.36)	1,114 (45.13)		1.36
1985-86	460 (44.66)	0.56	1.98 (±0.54)	909 (39.39)		1.11
SOUTHERN ZONE						
1979-80	1,666 (56.16)	2.59	2.37 (±0.71)	3,944 (67.13)		6.14
1980-81	1,366 (51.80)	2.13	2.24 (±0.73)	3,059 (54.21)		4.76
1981-82	1,316 (53.10)	2.05	2.12 (±0.31)	2,787 (62.45)		4.34
1982-83	1,191 (61.54)	1.85	1.94 (±0.31)	2,307 (60.78)		3.59
1983-84	776 (60.36)	1.21	1.90 (±0.30)	1,473 (59.35)		2.29
1984-85	633 (49.02)	0.99	2.14 (±0.51)	1,354 (54.87)		2.11
1985-86	570 (55.34)	0.89	2.46 (±0.71)	1,398 (60.61)		2.18
STATEWIDE						
1979-80	2,967	2.03	1.98 (±0.41)	5,875		4.02
1980-81	2,637	1.81	2.14 (±0.47)	5,643		3.86
1981-82	2,479	1.70	1.80 (±0.21)	4,462		3.05
1982-83	1,936	1.33	1.96 (±0.30)	3,795		2.60
1983-84	1,286	0.88	1.93 (±0.36)	2,482		1.70
1984-85	1,292	0.88	1.91 (±0.31)	2,468		1.69
1985-86	1,030	0.71	2.24 (±0.46)	2,307		1.58

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 25. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 131; 158; 142; 129; 117; 166; 158).

Area/Season	Estimated number		Average		Estimated total		Estimated trapper harvest 100/km ²
	of effective trappers	of effective trappers/100 km ²	season catch	season catch	trapper harvest	trapper harvest	
NORTHERN ZONE							
1979-80	1,849 (69.47) ^a	2.26	3.52 (±0.88) ^b	6,500	(72.89) ^a	7.94	
1980-81	2,031 (67.72)	2.48	3.41 (±0.78)	6,934	(61.66)	8.47	
1981-82	1,693 (69.72)	2.07	2.92 (±0.59)	4,938	(71.36)	6.03	
1982-83	1,415 (73.64)	1.73	3.94 (±0.97)	5,575	(83.11)	6.81	
1983-84	1,042 (76.92)	1.27	4.06 (±0.90)	4,223	(82.02)	5.16	
1984-85	1,521 (72.29)	1.86	3.93 (±0.82)	5,981	(79.19)	7.31	
1985-86	1,109 (70.25)	1.36	3.60 (±0.71)	4,000	(62.40)	4.89	
SOUTHERN ZONE							
1979-80	813 (30.53)	1.27	2.97 (±1.19)	2,418	(27.11)	3.76	
1980-81	968 (32.28)	1.51	4.45 (±1.53)	4,312	(38.34)	6.71	
1981-82	735 (30.28)	1.14	2.70 (±0.83)	1,982	(28.64)	3.09	
1982-83	507 (26.36)	0.79	2.24 (±0.67)	1,133	(16.89)	1.76	
1983-84	313 (23.08)	0.49	2.96 (±1.11)	926	(17.98)	1.44	
1984-85	583 (27.71)	0.91	2.70 (±0.72)	1,572	(20.81)	2.45	
1985-86	470 (29.75)	0.73	5.13 (±1.46)	2,411	(37.60)	3.75	
STATEWIDE							
1979-80	2,662	1.82	3.35 (±0.71)	8,918		6.11	
1980-81	2,999	2.05	3.75 (±0.73)	11,246		7.70	
1981-82	2,428	1.66	2.85 (±0.48)	6,920		4.74	
1982-83	1,922	1.32	3.49 (±0.74)	6,708		4.59	
1983-84	1,355	0.93	3.80 (±0.74)	5,149		3.52	
1984-85	2,104	1.44	3.59 (±0.63)	7,553		5.17	
1985-86	1,579	1.08	4.06 (±0.67)	6,411		4.39	

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 26. Summary of striped skunk trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 258; 240; 179; 215; 128; 147; 154).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	3,392 (64.73) ^a	4.14	2.85 (±0.35) ^b	9,664 (61.26) ^a	11.81
1980-81	2,940 (64.58)	3.59	3.10 (±0.58)	9,118 (63.79)	11.14
1981-82	2,000 (65.36)	2.44	2.93 (±0.55)	5,871 (60.71)	7.17
1982-83	2,220 (69.30)	2.71	3.28 (±0.71)	7,278 (71.91)	8.89
1983-84	985 (66.41)	1.20	3.48 (±0.81)	3,432 (78.72)	4.19
1984-85	1,305 (70.07)	1.59	3.00 (±0.71)	3,914 (76.11)	4.78
1985-86	970 (62.99)	1.19	3.39 (±0.78)	3,296 (72.79)	4.03
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	1,849 (35.27)	2.88	3.31 (±0.65)	6,111 (38.74)	9.51
1980-81	1,612 (35.42)	2.51	3.21 (±0.92)	5,175 (36.21)	8.06
1981-82	1,060 (34.64)	1.65	3.58 (±0.92)	3,799 (39.29)	5.91
1982-83	983 (30.70)	1.53	2.89 (±0.74)	2,843 (28.09)	4.43
1983-84	498 (33.59)	0.78	1.86 (±0.36)	928 (21.28)	1.44
1984-85	558 (29.93)	0.87	2.20 (±0.65)	1,228 (23.89)	1.91
1985-86	570 (37.01)	0.89	2.16 (±0.39)	1,232 (27.21)	1.92
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	5,241	3.59	3.01 (±0.32)	15,775	10.80
1980-81	4,552	3.12	3.14 (±0.49)	14,293	9.78
1981-82	3,060	2.09	3.16 (±0.48)	9,670	6.62
1982-83	3,203	2.19	3.16 (±0.54)	10,121	6.93
1983-84	1,483	1.02	2.94 (±0.57)	4,360	2.98
1984-85	1,863	1.28	2.76 (±0.53)	5,142	3.52
1985-86	1,540	1.05	2.94 (±0.52)	4,528	3.10

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 27. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 16; 16; 17; 11; 16; 16; 18; 13).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	163 (50.00) ^a	0.20	1.00 (±0.00) ^b	163 (47.06) ^a	0.20
1980-81	171 (52.94)	0.21	1.00 (±0.00)	171 (47.37)	0.21
1981-82	171 (90.91)	0.21	1.40 (±0.43)	239 (93.33)	0.29
1982-83	105 (43.75)	0.13	1.14 (±0.28)	119 (47.06)	0.15
1983-84	92 (50.00)	0.11	1.13 (±0.24)	104 (47.37)	0.13
1984-85	139 (61.11)	0.17	1.18 (±0.36)	164 (59.09)	0.20
1985-86	70 (53.85)	0.09	1.29 (±0.36)	90 (56.25)	0.11
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	163 (50.00)	0.25	1.13 (±0.24)	183 (52.94)	0.28
1980-81	152 (47.06)	0.24	1.25 (±0.32)	191 (52.63)	0.30
1981-82	17 (9.09)	0.03	1.00 (±0.00)	17 (6.67)	0.03
1982-83	134 (56.25)	0.21	1.00 (±0.00)	134 (52.94)	0.21
1983-84	93 (50.00)	0.14	1.25 (±0.32)	116 (52.63)	0.18
1984-85	89 (38.89)	0.14	1.29 (±0.56)	114 (40.91)	0.18
1985-86	60 (46.15)	0.09	1.17 (±0.33)	70 (43.75)	0.11
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	326	0.22	1.06 (±0.12)	346	0.24
1980-81	323	0.22	1.12 (±0.16)	362	0.25
1981-82	188	0.13	1.36 (±0.40)	256	0.18
1982-83	239	0.16	1.06 (±0.12)	253	0.17
1983-84	185	0.13	1.19 (±0.20)	220	0.15
1984-85	228	0.16	1.22 (±0.30)	278	0.19
1985-86	130	0.09	1.23 (±0.24)	160	0.11

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 28. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1985-86, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 102; 101; 129; 116; 147; 143; 125).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	894 (43.14) ^a	1.09	4.86 (±4.84) ^b	4,350 (59.44) ^a	5.32
1980-81	797 (41.58)	0.97	4.10 (±4.06)	3,264 (57.14)	3.99
1981-82	855 (38.76)	1.04	1.92 (±0.55)	1,644 (31.07)	2.01
1982-83	551 (31.90)	0.67	1.92 (±0.55)	1,059 (26.30)	1.29
1983-84	741 (43.54)	0.91	2.77 (±0.85)	2,050 (47.20)	2.50
1984-85	925 (51.05)	1.13	2.23 (±0.51)	2,064 (44.66)	2.52
1985-86	640 (51.20)	0.78	2.98 (±1.58)	1,911 (47.04)	2.34
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	1,179 (56.86)	1.84	2.52 (±1.12)	2,968 (40.56)	4.62
1980-81	1,120 (58.42)	1.74	2.19 (±0.44)	2,449 (42.86)	3.81
1981-82	1,350 (61.24)	2.10	2.70 (±0.65)	3,648 (68.93)	5.68
1982-83	1,177 (68.10)	1.83	2.52 (±0.63)	2,967 (73.70)	4.62
1983-84	962 (56.46)	1.50	2.39 (±0.40)	2,293 (52.80)	3.57
1984-85	887 (48.95)	1.38	2.89 (±0.88)	2,557 (55.34)	3.98
1985-86	610 (48.80)	0.95	3.52 (±0.89)	2,151 (52.96)	3.35
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	2,073	1.42	3.53 (±2.18)	7,318	5.01
1980-81	1,917	1.31	2.98 (±1.71)	5,713	3.91
1981-82	2,205	1.51	2.40 (±0.45)	5,292	3.62
1982-83	1,728	1.18	2.33 (±0.46)	4,026	2.76
1983-84	1,703	1.17	2.55 (±0.43)	4,343	2.97
1984-85	1,812	1.24	2.55 (±0.51)	4,621	3.16
1985-86	1,250	0.86	3.25 (±0.92)	4,062	2.78

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

^b 95% confidence interval.

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Wildlife Resources Division
Furbearer Section

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA
 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET
 SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

TO ISSUING AGENT:

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL IMMEDIATELY UPON SALE OF FIRST LICENSE IN BOOK

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 (1985 SERIES)
Please Print Plainly

Name	JOHN DOE
Rural Route or Street Address	RR 3
Post Office	HOMETOWN
Zip Code	60000
County of Residence	SANGAMON

Figure 1. Mail survey address card issued to license vendors in 1985-86 post-season trapper mail survey.

**DETACH THIS PAGE AND GIVE TO
PERSON WHO PURCHASES FIRST
LICENSE IN BOOK**

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 1985-86 post-season trapper mail survey.



LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

1

1985-86

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 1984-85 season, there were 565,428 pelts sold by Illinois fur-takers for a value to them of \$6,201,539. We need information on the trapped portion of the catch for the 1985-86 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.

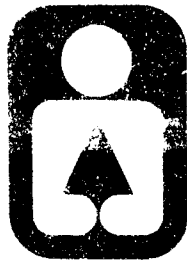
Yours for better trapping.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Hubert, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

George Hubert, Jr.
Furbearer Biologist

Illinois



Department of Conservation

life and land together

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

2

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

Figure 4. Letter of transmittal sent with first follow-up mailing in 1985-86 post-season trapper mail survey.



LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

3-Trap

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!

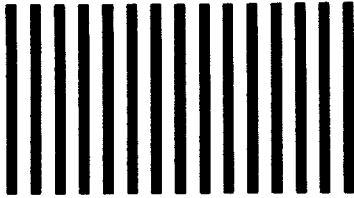
Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Hubert, Jr.".

George Hubert, Jr.
Furbearer Biologist

Figure 5. Letter of transmittal sent with second follow-up mailing in 1985-86 post-season trapper mail survey.

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Division of Wildlife Resources — Furbearer
Lincoln Tower Plaza
524 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701-9990
Attn: George Hubert, Jr.

FURBEARER TRAPPING SURVEY 1985-1986 SEASON

1. Did you trap for furbearers in Illinois during the 1985-86 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. Are you a member of a trapping club or organization like Fur-taker's, N.T.A., or Illinois Trappers' Association? Yes No
6. Please fill in **all three blanks** for each kind of furbearer you trapped in Illinois during the 1985-1986 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 during the 1985-86 season (birds, dogs, cats, etc.)? Yes No If yes, please list what kind and how many: _____
8. Did you also HUNT furbearers with gun and/or dogs during the 1985-86 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**

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The Dept. of Conservation is requesting this information as outlined under the Wildlife Code, Chapter 61. Providing this information is voluntary. This form has been approved by the State Forms Management Center.

Figure 6. Questionnaire form for post-season mail survey of Illinois trappers, 1985-86 season.

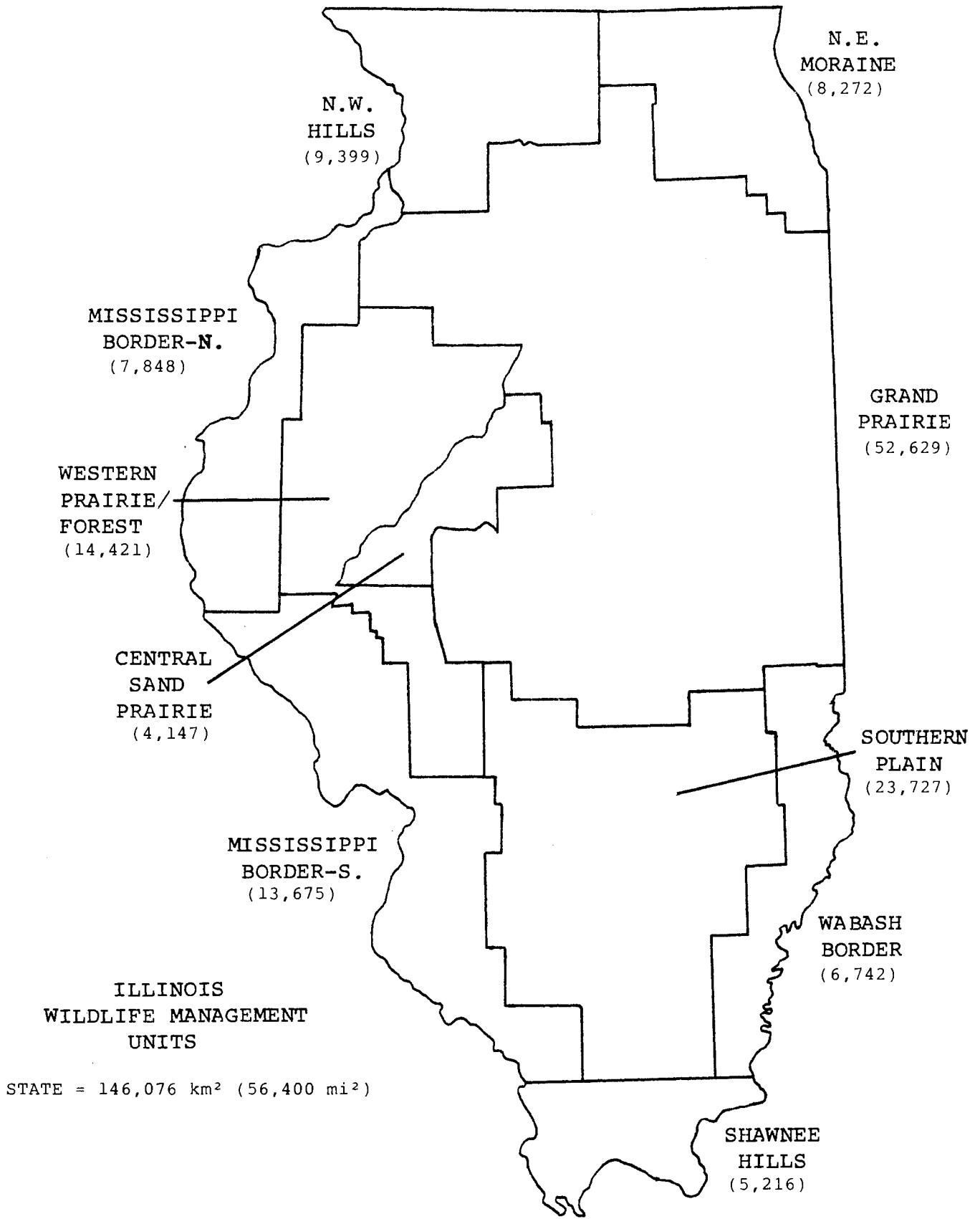


Figure 7. Area (km²) of wildlife management units in Illinois.



Figure 8. Furbearer management zones for the 1985-86 season.

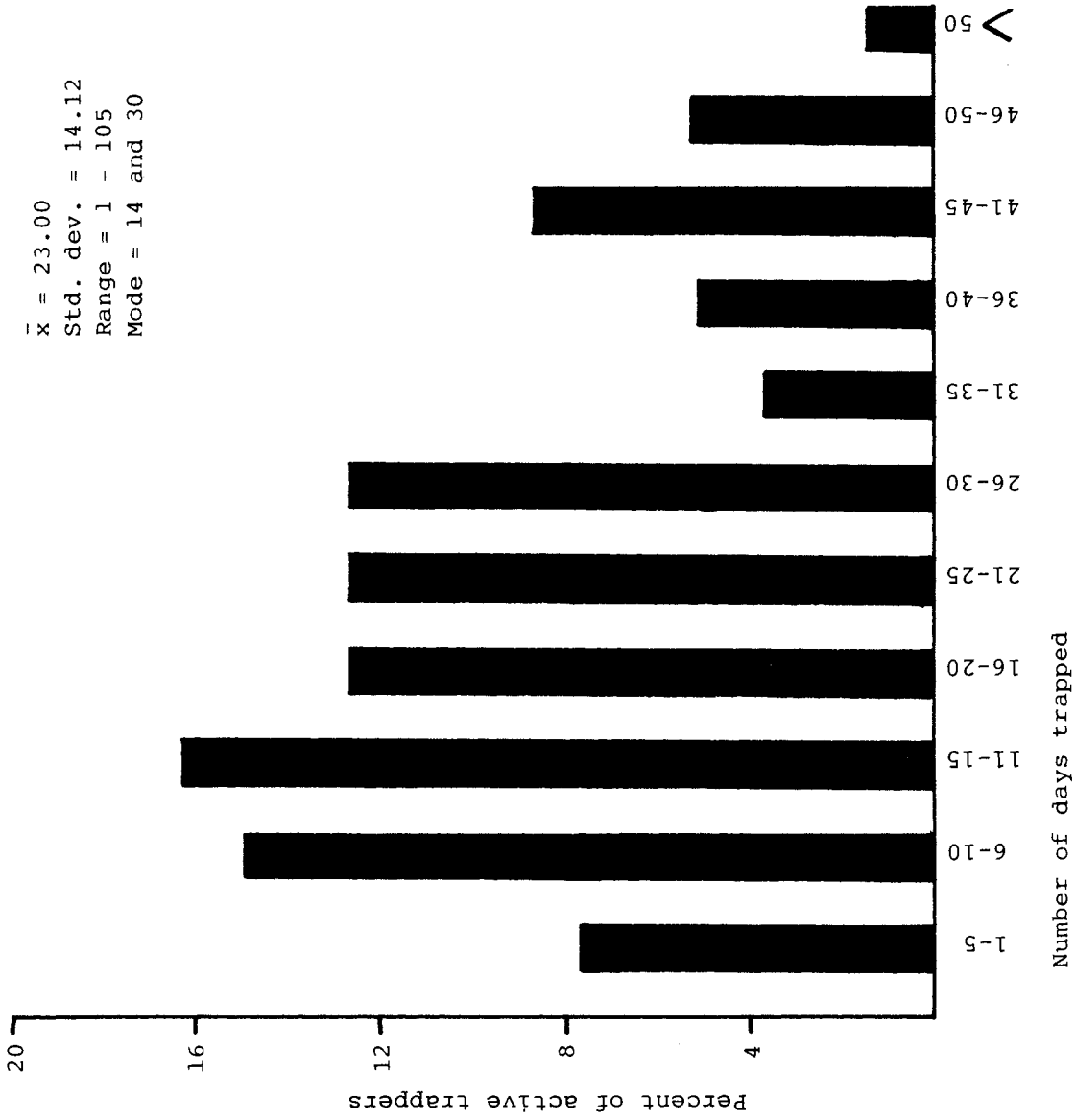


Figure 9. Distribution of days trapped per active trapper in Illinois, 1985-86 season (n = 753).

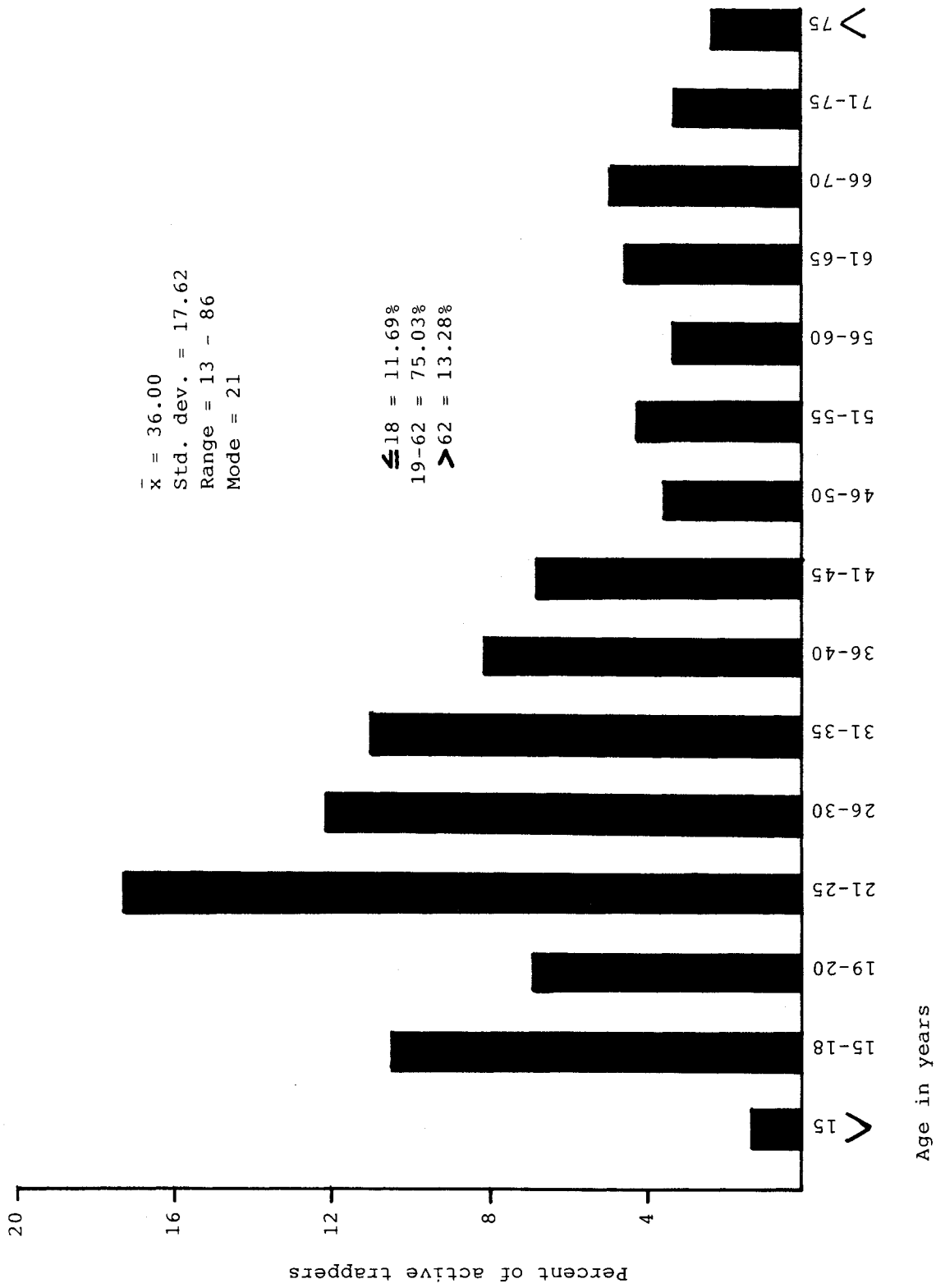


Figure 10. Age (in years) of active trappers in Illinois, 1985-86 season (n = 753).

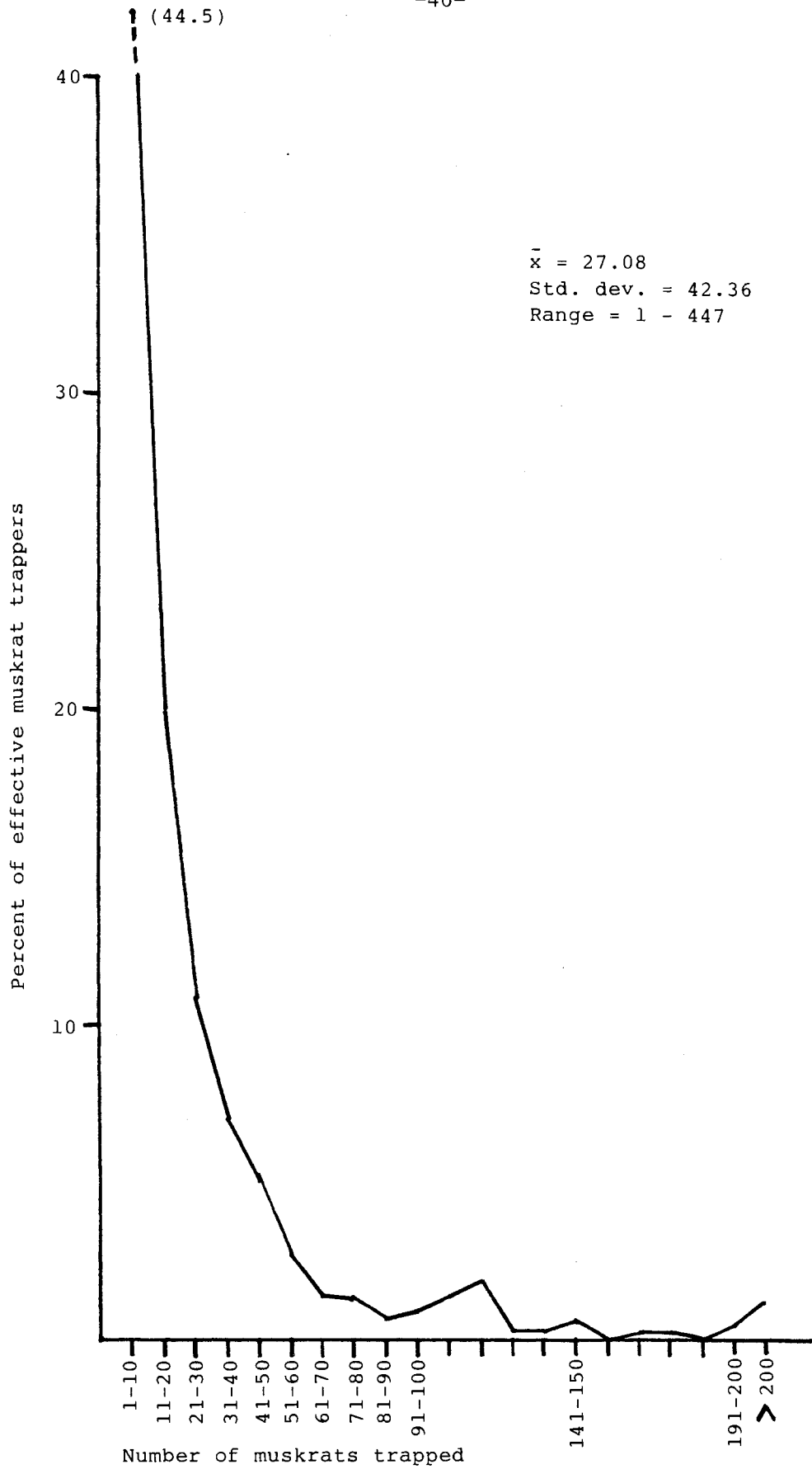


Figure 11. Distribution of muskrats trapped per effective muskrat trapper in Illinois, 1985-86 season (n = 555).

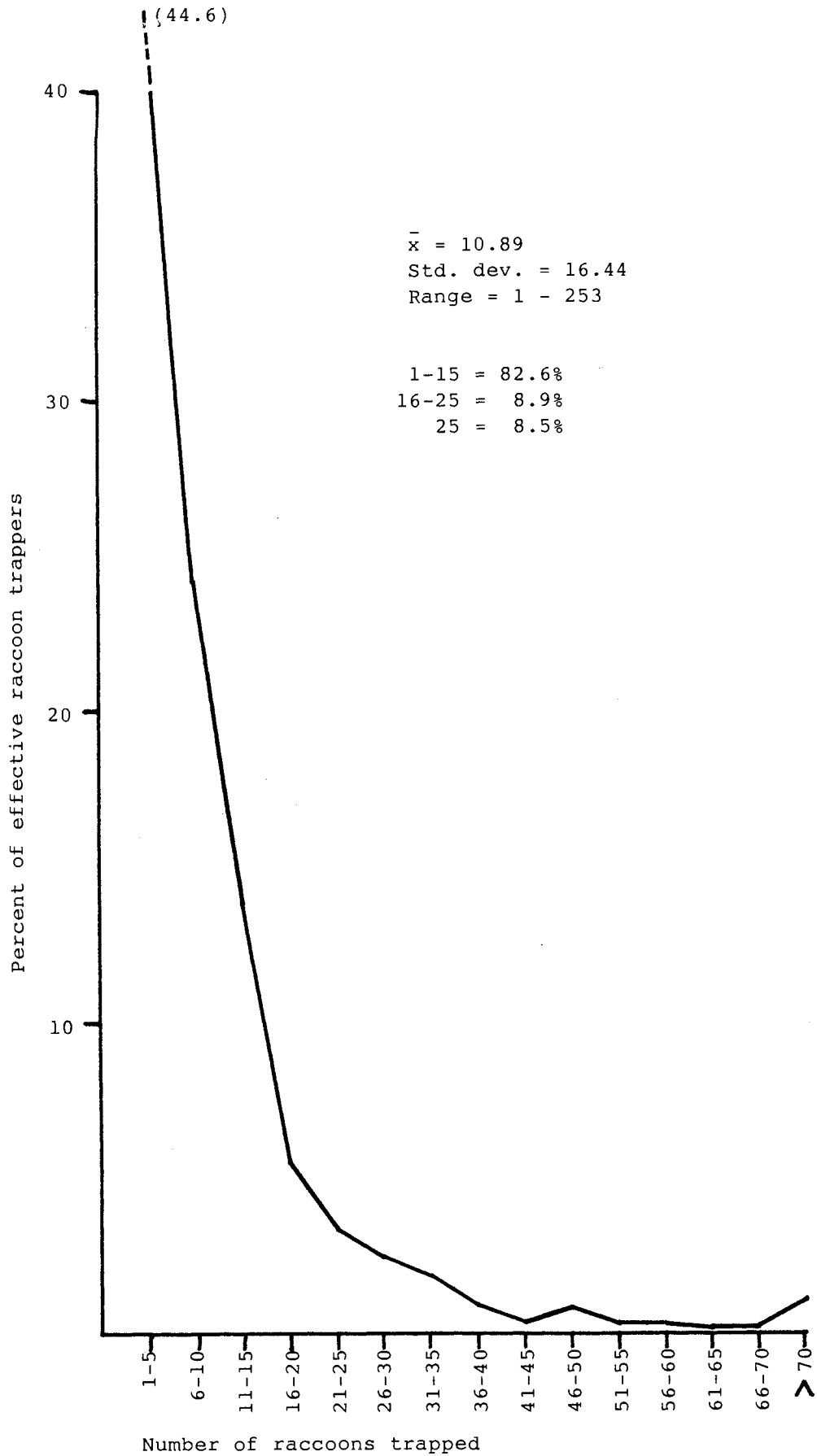


Figure 12. Distribution of number of raccoons trapped per effective raccoon trapper in Illinois, 1985-86 season (n = 653).

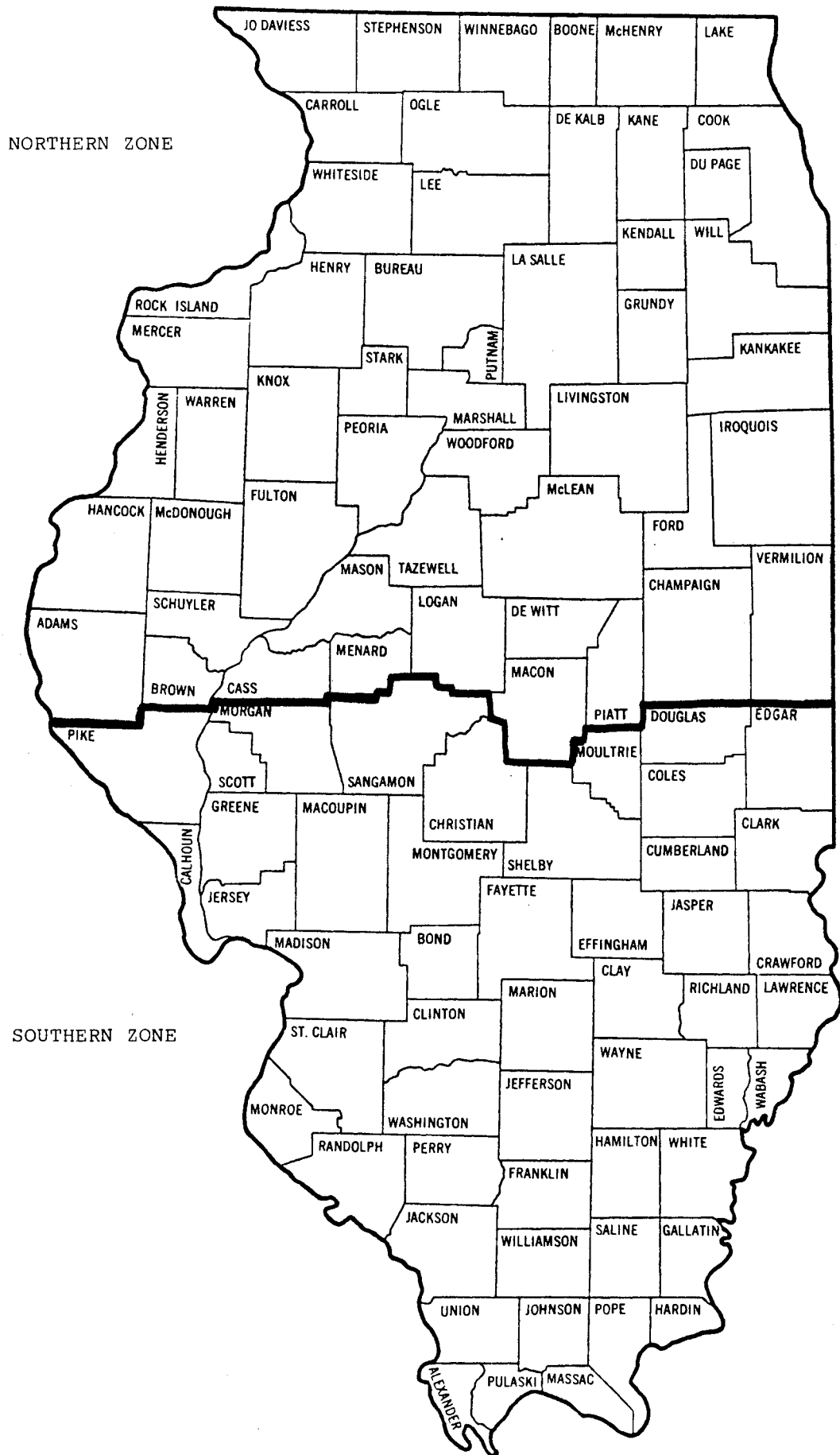


Figure 13. Existing furbearer management zones (based on county boundaries) used to prepare 1979-80 through 1985-86 season data summaries.

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