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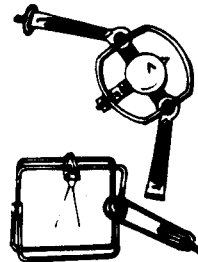
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Study XV: Wildlife Harvests

Job No. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1987-88

By

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO. W-49-R-35

STUDY XV: Wildlife Harvests

JOB NO. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1987-88

ABSTRACT: A stratified random sample of 1,200 persons who purchased 1987 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 1,180 (98.33%) recipients from which 956 useable replies were received (81.02% return). Of these, 88.70% were active, i.e. set one or more traps during the season. Only 1.89% of the active trappers were ineffective, i.e. caught nothing.

The 1987-88 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) 8,766 (300,060), mink (Mustela vison) 5,317 (16,004), raccoon (Procyon lotor) 9,570 (134,554), opossum (Didelphis marsupialis) 7,625 (70,684), red fox (Vulpes vulpes) 2,244 (5,677), gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus) 1,193 (2,648), beaver (Castor canadensis) 3,216 (13,539), striped skunk (Mephitis mephitis) 2,412 (6,223), weasel (Mustela frenata, M. nivalis) 169 (183), and coyote (Canis latrans) 1,997 (7,649).

The average trapper had traps set for 25.2 days (or nights). Active trappers used an average of 31.18 traps; only 2.14% used more than 100. 13.4% of the active trappers had attended a trapper education course sponsored by the Illinois Department of Conservation. Over half of the effective muskrat trappers (53.6%) caught 20 or fewer muskrats during the season. Most effective raccoon trappers (72.3%) harvested from 1 to 15 raccoons for the entire season and 86.2% trapped 25 or less. Illinois trappers caught an estimated 45.48% of their harvest in body-gripping traps, 52.74% was taken in foot-hold type traps, and box/cage traps were used to capture the remaining 1.78%. Of the active trappers who provided information, 2.85% stated they had taken one or more animals in Woodstream "Soft-Catch" padded traps. 28.98% of the licensed trappers also hunted furbearers, primarily raccoons. The harvest of pelts by hunting trappers amounted to 8.19% of the total trapped catch in the sample.

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO.: W-49-R-35

STUDY XV: Wildlife Harvests

JOB NO. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1987-88

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 1987 series (total sales estimate 12,397 - 1 July 1988) (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 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 1987-88 seasons, or active - those who did set one or more traps for furbearers during the 1987-88 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

computer files at the Division of Wildlife Resources office, Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield, Illinois, and stored for subsequent analysis. Mr. Scott Bennett, a consultant from Champaign, Illinois, prepared the data entry and analysis programs.

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_1 = reported season catch
for species in question

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

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:

1987-88 Trapping Seasons

The 1987-88 fur-bearing mammal trapping seasons varied from 35 to 106 days in length (Table 1). The seasons for all species except beaver, red fox, gray fox, and coyote lasted 45 days in both the northern and southern management zones (Fig. 8). Opening dates were 15 November 1987 and 25 November 1987, 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 1987. Beaver trapping season was 96 or 106 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 45 days along the Mississippi River from Interstate 80 north to the JoDaviess County line as a protective measure for river otter (Lutra canadensis).

1987-88 Trapper Mail Survey

The initial mailing of 1,200 questionnaires was made on 29 January 1988. The two follow-up mailings to non-respondents were made on 3 March and 5 April and closed out on 30 April 1988. Approximately two days preparation was required for each mailing.

A total of 1,180 (98.33%) licensees in the 1987-88 survey sample was reached by the Postal Service via first class mail. The 20 remaining questionnaires were returned as undeliverable. There were 956 useable replies received from the licensees contacted, representing an 81.02% response on the number delivered. Of these respondents, 848 (88.70%) reported that they set one or more traps for furbearers during the season and were classified as active. A total of 832 (98.11%) active trappers were effective, i.e. caught one or more furbearers, and the remaining 16 (1.89%) were ineffective, i.e. caught nothing.

a. Number of days trapped

Active trappers had traps set an average of 25.2 days (or nights) during the 1987-88 season (Fig. 9). The maximum number of days a trapper could have legally trapped was 106. However, only 3.0% of the respondents stated they had traps set for over 45 days, and just 27.0% 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 1986-87, Illinois trappers had traps set an average of 26.6 days during a 106-day season (Hubert 1987). The mean number of days trapped in 1985-86 was 23 days (Hubert 1986).

b. Number of traps used

The average active trapper used 31.18 traps during 1987-88 (Fig. 10). In spite of the fact that there were no restrictions on the number of traps that could be set, 86.71% of all active trappers employed between 1 and 50. Only 2.14% used more than 100. In comparison, the average Missouri trapper used 32.93 traps in 1972-73 (Sampson 1973). In 1977-78, active Illinois trappers set a mean of 26.48 traps (Hubert 1978).

c. Trapper education training

During the 1987-88 season, 13.4% of the active trappers who responded to the survey (n = 844) indicated they had attended a trapper education class sponsored by the Illinois Department of Conservation. The legislation which mandated an 8-hour training course for first-time trappers under 18 years of age became effective in 1985. Previous surveys have determined that 11.7 to 16.4% of the trappers in Illinois are 18 years old or younger (Hubert 1983, 1986). Therefore, it appears that few individuals who are not required by law to attend trapper education classes do so.

d. Trapper harvest summary

A statewide summary for the 10 species of furbearers surveyed in 1987-88 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 1987-88, effective raccoon trappers were the most numerous and their projected number varied by only $\pm 3.51\%$. The 95% confidence interval projections for less numerous red fox trappers varied by $\pm 13.77\%$ and for uncommon weasel trappers by $\pm 55.03\%$.

e. Distribution of harvest among effective trappers

The muskrat and raccoon were the two most important furbearers trapped during the 1987-88 season in terms of number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total harvest (Table 2). The reported number of muskrats harvested by 676 effective muskrat trappers ranged from 1 to 350 and averaged 34.11 (Tables 2, 13, 14, Fig. 11). During the season, 53.6% of these trappers harvested 20 or fewer muskrats and 92.4% caught 100 or less. All values are similar to those obtained in the seven previous seasons (Hubert 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987). Of the effective trappers who responded, 162 (24.0%) 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 738 effective raccoon trappers who reported averaged 14.06 and ranged from 1 to 137 (Tables 2, 13, 14, Fig. 12). Less than the average season catch was taken by 68.5% of these trappers. For the entire season, 72.3% harvested 15 or fewer raccoons and 86.2% trapped 25 or less. Only 43 (5.8%) 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, less than 12% of the effective trappers made season catches exceeding five pelts. The exceptions were: effective opossum trappers - 49.58% of these individuals trapped more than five opossums during the season, and effective beaver trappers - 20.07% 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. Distribution of trap types used by trappers

During the 1987-88 season, Illinois trappers caught an estimated 45.48% of the animals they harvested in body-gripping traps (Table 16). In comparison, foot-hold type traps were used to catch 52.74% and box/cage traps accounted for 1.78%. Body-gripping traps were used most often to take aquatic furbearers such as the muskrat and beaver. Foot-hold traps were the primary device used to catch semi-aquatic and terrestrial species, especially the red fox, gray fox, and coyote. Box/cage traps were employed on a limited basis probably due to their size/weight, cost, and relative inefficiency. However, this trap type was of some importance for capturing raccoons and opossums. Relatively little information concerning trap types used by Midwestern trappers to take each species of furbearer is available (Hamilton and Fox 1987). Kansas trappers indicated they used about 35 traps per season (L. B. Fox, unpub. rep., 1985). Of these, 66% were footholds, 19% were killing devices (body-gripping), 13% were snares, and 3% were cage traps. The use of snares has not been permitted in Illinois since the 1946-47 season.

g. Use of Woodstream "Soft-Catch" traps

Woodstream "Soft-Catch" traps were not commonly used to harvest furbearers in Illinois during the 1987-88 season. Of the 843 active trappers who provided information, 24 (2.85%) stated they had taken one or more animals in "Soft-Catch" devices. These 24 trappers reported catching a total of 149 furbearers with "Soft-Catch" traps (75 raccoons, 49 muskrats, 11 opossums, 4 mink, 4 coyotes, 4 beaver, 1 red fox, and 1 gray fox). Woodstream Corporation began marketing "Soft-Catch" traps in 1986. Since that time approximately 200,000 such traps have been sold (pers. comm., Pete Askins, Woodstream Corp.). Assuming that purchases have been evenly distributed among the lower 48 states and normally occur in lots of 12, about 2.8% of the trappers licensed in Illinois in 1987-88 should own "Soft-Catch" traps.

h. Fur hunting by trappers

A total of 262 (28.98%) trappers reported hunting furbearers with gun and/or dogs in 1987-88 (Table 17). Their total hunting harvest was 3,519 pelts or an average of 13.43 per hunting trapper. This is equivalent to 8.19% 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 1985-86 and 1986-87, 30.03% and 29.14%, respectively, of the trappers in Illinois also hunted furbearers (Hubert 1986, 1987). 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), 1985-86 (Hubert 1986), 1986-87 (Hubert 1987), and 1987-88 are presented in Tables 18 through 27. 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 1986-87 (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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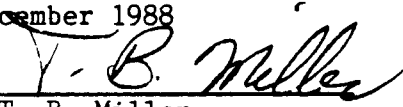
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DATA AND REPORTS:

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

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Table 1. Illinois fur-bearing mammal trapping season for 1987-88.

Species	Trapping season	
	Northern zone	Southern zone
Muskrat, Mink, Raccoon, Opossum, Striped skunk, Weasel	15 Nov - 29 Dec (45) ^a	25 Nov - 8 Jan (45)
Beaver	15 Nov - 28 Feb (106) ^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 Carroll, Whiteside, and Rock Island counties lying west of Illinois Rt. 84 from Interstate 80 north to the JoDaviess County line were open to beaver trapping from 15 Nov.-29 Dec. 1987 only.

Table 2. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of Illinois resident trappers, 1987-88 season (n = 956).

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	8,766	70.71	34.23	300,060	99.66	299,040
Mink	5,317	42.89	3.01	16,004	99.59	15,938
Raccoon	9,570	77.20	14.06	134,554	99.42	133,774
Opossum	7,625	61.51	9.27	70,684	86.64	61,241
Red fox	2,244	18.10	2.53	5,677	95.45	5,419
Gray fox	1,193	9.62	2.22	2,648	96.24	2,548
Beaver	3,216	25.94	4.21	13,539	95.98	12,995
Striped skunk	2,412	19.46	2.58	6,223	39.89	2,482
Weasel	169	1.36	1.08	183	61.11	112
Coyote	1,997	16.11	3.83	7,649	95.24	7,285

^a From Hubert (1987).

Table 3. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 676).

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	1,128 (12.87) ^b	12.00	62.53	70,544 (23.51) ^b	750.55
Northeast Moraine	519 (5.92)	6.27	28.10	14,583 (4.86)	176.29
Mississippi Border-North	519 (5.92)	6.61	38.15	19,804 (6.60)	252.34
Mississippi Border-South	895 (10.21)	6.54	22.99	20,554 (6.85)	150.30
Western Prairie/Forest	920 (10.50)	6.38	26.99	24,845 (8.28)	172.28
Central Sand Prairie	324 (3.70)	7.81	47.60	15,423 (5.14)	371.91
Grand Prairie	2,671 (30.47)	5.08	37.28	99,560 (33.18)	189.17
Southern Plain	1,310 (14.94)	5.52	21.14	27,695 (9.23)	116.72
Wabash Border	272 (3.10)	4.03	14.00	3,811 (1.27)	56.53
Shawnee Hills	208 (2.37)	3.99	15.69	3,241 (1.08)	62.14
Statewide	8,766 (100.00)	6.00	34.23	300,060 (100.00)	205.41

^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, 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 410).

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	570 (10.73) ^b	6.06	2.27	1,295 (8.09) ^b	13.78
Northeast Moraine	311 (5.85)	3.76	2.46	763 (4.77)	9.22
Mississippi Border-North	233 (4.39)	2.97	2.78	647 (4.04)	8.24
Mississippi Border-South	635 (11.95)	4.64	3.12	1,981 (12.38)	14.49
Western Prairie/Forest	519 (9.76)	3.60	2.10	1,088 (6.80)	7.54
Central Sand Prairie	195 (3.66)	4.70	3.67	712 (4.45)	17.17
Grand Prairie	1,608 (30.24)	3.06	3.00	4,817 (30.10)	9.15
Southern Plain	908 (17.07)	3.83	3.89	3,523 (22.01)	14.85
Wabash Border	182 (3.42)	2.70	3.07	557 (3.48)	8.26
Shawnee Hills	156 (2.93)	2.99	4.00	621 (3.88)	11.91
Statewide	5,317 (100.00)	3.64	3.01	16,004 (100.00)	10.96

^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, 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 738).

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	1,012 (10.57) ^b	10.77	14.68	14,855 (11.04) ^b	158.05
Northeast Moraine	570 (5.96)	6.89	16.27	9,284 (6.90)	112.23
Mississippi Border-North	584 (6.10)	7.44	20.60	12,016 (8.93)	153.11
Mississippi Border-South	1,024 (10.70)	7.49	14.86	15,232 (11.32)	111.39
Western Prairie/Forest	1,180 (12.33)	8.18	12.75	15,043 (11.18)	104.31
Central Sand Prairie	285 (2.98)	6.87	18.09	5,167 (3.84)	124.60
Grand Prairie	2,839 (29.67)	5.39	13.08	37,150 (27.61)	70.59
Southern Plain	1,479 (15.45)	6.23	12.24	18,097 (13.45)	76.27
Wabash Border	350 (3.66)	5.19	11.67	4,090 (3.04)	60.66
Shawnee Hills	247 (2.58)	4.74	14.68	3,620 (2.69)	69.40
Statewide	9,570 (100.00)	6.55	14.06	134,554 (100.00)	92.11

^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 6. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 588).

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	765 (10.03) ^b	8.14	7.76	5,937 (8.40) ^b	63.17
Northeast Moraine	428 (5.61)	5.17	9.97	4,262 (6.03)	51.52
Mississippi Border-North	506 (6.63)	6.45	14.28	7,224 (10.22)	92.05
Mississippi Border-South	908 (11.91)	6.64	9.64	8,751 (12.38)	63.99
Western Prairie/Forest	817 (10.72)	5.67	7.98	6,517 (9.22)	45.19
Central Sand Prairie	246 (3.23)	5.93	7.95	1,958 (2.77)	47.21
Grand Prairie	2,282 (29.93)	4.34	8.68	19,813 (28.03)	37.65
Southern Plain	1,258 (16.50)	5.30	8.71	10,956 (15.50)	46.18
Wabash Border	298 (3.91)	4.42	12.91	3,852 (5.45)	57.13
Shawnee Hills	117 (1.53)	2.24	12.11	1,414 (2.00)	27.11
Statewide	7,625 (100.00)	5.22	9.27	70,684 (100.00)	48.39

^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 7. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 173).

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	272 (12.14) ^b	2.89	1.76	480 (8.45) ^b	5.11
Northeast Moraine	194 (8.67)	2.35	2.20	428 (7.54)	5.17
Mississippi Border-North	91 (4.05)	1.16	3.14	285 (5.02)	3.63
Mississippi Border-South	221 (9.83)	1.62	2.18	480 (8.45)	3.51
Western Prairie/Forest	221 (9.83)	1.53	2.71	596 (10.50)	4.13
Central Sand Prairie	13 (0.58)	0.31	1.00	13 (0.23)	0.31
Grand Prairie	687 (30.63)	1.31	2.66	1,827 (32.19)	3.47
Southern Plain	363 (16.18)	1.53	3.11	1,127 (19.86)	4.75
Wabash Border	117 (5.20)	1.74	2.44	285 (5.02)	4.23
Shawnee Hills	65 (2.89)	1.25	2.40	156 (2.74)	2.99
Statewide	2,244 (100.00)	1.54	2.53	5,677 (100.00)	3.89

^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, 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 92).

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	65 (5.43) ^b	0.69	1.60	104 (3.92) ^b	1.11
Northeast Moraine	65 (5.43)	0.79	1.80	117 (4.41)	1.41
Mississippi Border-North	—	—	—	—	—
Mississippi Border-South	168 (14.13)	1.23	1.85	312 (11.77)	2.28
Western Prairie/Forest	91 (7.61)	0.63	3.00	272 (10.29)	1.89
Central Sand Prairie	26 (2.18)	0.63	1.00	26 (0.98)	0.63
Grand Prairie	337 (28.26)	0.64	2.46	831 (31.37)	1.58
Southern Plain	233 (19.57)	0.98	1.94	454 (17.16)	1.91
Wabash Border	143 (11.96)	2.12	2.55	363 (13.73)	5.38
Shawnee Hills	65 (5.43)	1.25	2.60	169 (6.37)	3.24
Statewide	1,193 (100.00)	0.82	2.22	2,648 (100.00)	1.81

^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, 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 248).

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	363 (11.29) ^b	3.86	5.32	1,933 (14.28) ^b	20.57
Northeast Moraine	143 (4.43)	1.73	4.45	636 (4.70)	7.69
Mississippi Border-North	207 (6.45)	2.64	5.44	1,129 (8.34)	14.39
Mississippi Border-South	272 (8.47)	1.99	5.90	1,610 (11.89)	11.77
Western Prairie/Forest	311 (9.68)	2.16	3.83	1,194 (8.82)	8.28
Central Sand Prairie	195 (6.05)	4.70	1.67	325 (2.40)	7.84
Grand Prairie	1,102 (34.27)	2.09	3.40	3,752 (27.71)	7.13
Southern Plain	441 (13.71)	1.86	4.76	2,103 (15.53)	8.86
Wabash Border	78 (2.42)	1.16	2.83	221 (1.63)	3.28
Shawnee Hills	104 (3.23)	1.99	6.13	636 (4.70)	12.19
Statewide	3,216 (100.00)	2.20	4.21	13,539 (100.00)	9.27

^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, 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 186).

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	285 (11.83) ^b	3.03	2.91	830 (13.33) ^b	8.83
Northeast Moraine	233 (9.68)	2.82	3.61	843 (13.54)	10.19
Mississippi Border-North	207 (8.60)	2.64	2.00	415 (6.67)	5.29
Mississippi Border-South	130 (5.38)	0.95	2.30	298 (4.79)	2.18
Western Prairie/Forest	182 (7.53)	1.26	2.36	428 (6.88)	2.97
Central Sand Prairie	78 (3.22)	1.88	2.50	194 (3.12)	4.68
Grand Prairie	843 (34.95)	1.60	2.57	2,165 (34.79)	4.11
Southern Plain	324 (13.44)	1.37	2.00	648 (10.42)	2.73
Wabash Border	91 (3.76)	1.35	2.71	246 (3.96)	3.65
Shawnee Hills	39 (1.61)	0.75	4.00	156 (2.50)	2.99
Statewide	2,412 (100.00)	1.65	2.58	6,223 (100.00)	4.26

^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, 1987-88, 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	13 (7.69) ^b	0.14	1.00	13 (7.14) ^b	0.14
Northeast Moraine	—	—	—	—	—
Mississippi Border-North	—	—	—	—	—
Mississippi Border-South	13 (7.69)	0.10	1.00	13 (7.14)	0.10
Western Prairie/Forest	39 (23.08)	0.27	1.00	39 (21.43)	0.27
Central Sand Prairie	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Prairie	65 (38.46)	0.12	1.20	79 (42.86)	0.15
Southern Plain	13 (7.69)	0.05	1.00	13 (7.14)	0.05
Wabash Border	26 (15.39)	0.39	1.00	26 (14.29)	0.39
Shawnee Hills	—	—	—	—	—
Statewide	169 (100.00)	0.12	1.08	183 (100.00)	0.13

^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, 1987-88, 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	143 (7.14) ^b	1.52	1.45	207 (2.71) ^b	2.20
Northeast Moraine	78 (3.90)	0.94	8.33	648 (8.47)	7.83
Mississippi Border-North	143 (7.14)	1.82	5.27	752 (9.83)	9.58
Mississippi Border-South	233 (11.69)	1.70	2.89	674 (8.81)	4.93
Western Prairie/Forest	246 (12.34)	1.71	8.74	2,152 (28.14)	14.92
Central Sand Prairie	39 (1.95)	0.94	1.67	65 (0.85)	1.57
Grand Prairie	545 (27.27)	1.04	2.79	1,517 (19.83)	2.88
Southern Plain	350 (17.53)	1.48	2.67	933 (12.20)	3.93
Wabash Border	155 (7.79)	2.30	3.67	571 (7.46)	8.47
Shawnee Hills	65 (3.25)	1.25	2.00	130 (1.70)	2.49
Statewide	1,997 (100.00)	1.37	3.83	7,649 (100.00)	5.24

^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 1987-88 post-season mail survey of Illinois resident trappers (n = 956).

Species	Total effective trappers	Percent effective trappers	Total season catch
Muskrat	676	70.71	23,141
Mink	410	42.89	1,236
Raccoon	738	77.20	10,373
Opossum	588	61.51	5,452
Red fox	173	18.10	438
Gray fox	92	9.62	204
Beaver	248	25.94	1,043
Striped skunk	186	19.46	480
Weasel	13	1.36	14
Coyote	154	16.11	590

Table 14. Estimated number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total trapper harvest by species in Illinois for 1987-88 season based on post-season trapper mail survey (n = 956).

Species	Estimated number of effective trappers		Estimated average season catch		Estimated total harvest	
Muskrat	8,766 _±	365 ^a _—	34.23 _±	3.36 ^a _—	300,060 _±	32,508 ^a _—
Mink	5,317 _±	397	3.01 _±	0.34	16,004 _±	2,189
Raccoon	9,570 _±	336	14.06 _±	1.21	134,554 _±	12,702
Opossum	7,625 _±	390	9.27 _±	0.87	70,684 _±	7,658
Red fox	2,244 _±	309	2.53 _±	0.38	5,677 _±	1,163
Gray fox	1,193 _±	236	2.22 _±	0.43	2,648 _±	740
Beaver	3,216 _±	351	4.21 _±	0.71	13,539 _±	2,742
Striped skunk	2,412 _±	317	2.58 _±	0.40	6,223 _±	1,287
Weasel	169 _±	93	1.08 _±	0.15	183 _±	103
Coyote	1,997 _±	295	3.83 _±	1.08	7,649 _±	2,472

^a_— 95% confidence interval.

Table 15. Distribution of harvest among effective trappers for 8 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey.

Total season catch	Percentage of effective trappers for species							
	Mink (410) ^a	Opossum (588)	Red fox (173)	Gray fox (92)	Beaver (248)	Striped skunk (186)	Weasel (13)	Coyote (154)
1	38.29	11.84	50.29	51.09	35.34	45.16	92.31	50.00
2	23.90	11.84	19.65	25.00	16.47	24.73	7.69	14.94
3	13.66	8.46	10.40	13.04	13.25	10.22	..	12.99
4	8.78	9.48	4.05	..	8.03	5.38	..	5.19
5	4.39	8.80	5.78	2.17	6.83	8.06	..	5.19
6	2.93	6.26	1.16	3.26	6.43	1.08	..	..
7	1.71	2.03	2.89	..	2.01	0.54	..	1.30
8	1.22	3.55	1.16	2.17	2.01	1.08	..	1.30
9	0.73	3.05	1.73	1.09	0.80	..	..	..
10	0.73	6.09	0.58	1.09	1.20	1.08	..	1.95
11	0.49	2.03	0.58	..	0.80	0.54	..	..
12	0.24	5.25	1.16	1.09	0.40	0.54	..	1.30
13	0.49	1.02	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	0.24	1.86	..	..	0.40	..	..	0.65
15	..	3.21	..	..	1.20	0.54	..	..
16-20	1.46	6.43	0.58	..	2.01	0.54	..	1.95
21-25	0.24	3.21	..	..	0.40	0.54	..	..
>25	0.49	6.09	..	..	2.41	..	..	3.25

^a - Numbers in parentheses indicate sample size for species.

Table 16. Distribution of major trap types used by trappers to catch 10 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1987-88 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 904).

Species	Total number caught in traps	Total number caught in body-gripping traps	Total number caught in foot-hold traps	Total number caught in box/cage traps
Muskrat	21,953	13,101 (59.68) ^a	8,829 (40.22)	23 (0.10)
Mink	1,194	401 (33.58)	790 (66.16)	3 (0.25)
Raccoon	10,010	2,562 (25.59)	7,020 (70.13)	428 (4.28)
Opossum	5,259	1,745 (33.18)	3,245 (61.70)	269 (5.12)
Red fox	432	32 (7.41)	400 (92.59)	0 (0.00)
Gray fox	189	14 (7.41)	175 (92.59)	0 (0.00)
Beaver	997	642 (64.39)	355 (35.61)	0 (0.00)
Striped skunk	461	179 (38.83)	275 (59.65)	7 (1.52)
Weasel	13	0 (0.00)	12 (92.31)	1 (7.69)
Coyote	575	7 (1.22)	568 (98.78)	0 (0.00)
TOTALS	41,083	18,683 (45.48)	21,669 (52.74)	731 (1.78)

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages.

Table 17. Summary of fur hunting activities of trappers in Illinois, 1987-88 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 904).

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	202	2,812	13.92	22.35	38,572
Opossum	61	281	4.61	6.75	3,859
Red fox	40	118	2.95	4.42	1,617
Gray fox	7	13	1.86	0.77	177
Striped skunk	6	12	2.00	0.66	164
Coyote	80	283	3.54	8.85	3,883
All species	262	3,519	13.43	28.98	48,272

Table 18. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 730; 747; 696; 691; 646; 641; 555; 671; 676).

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	9,224 (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
1986-87	4,695 (56.78)	5.74	46.54 (+6.14)	218,464 (65.66)	266.95
1987-88	5,537 (63.17)	6.77	41.61 (+4.85)	230,416 (76.79)	281.55
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
1986-87	3,573 (43.22)	5.56	31.97 (+5.25)	114,240 (34.34)	177.84
1987-88	3,229 (36.83)	5.03	21.57 (+3.16)	69,644 (23.21)	108.41
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
1986-87	8,268	5.66	40.24 (+4.19)	332,704	227.76
1987-88	8,766	6.00	34.23 (+3.36)	300,060	205.41

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 19. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 419; 501; 471; 445; 439; 410; 324; 418; 410).

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	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
1986-87	2,784 (54.07)	3.40	2.92 (+0.41)	8,133 (42.23)	9.94
1987-88	3,048 (57.32)	3.72	2.74 (+0.35)	8,338 (52.10)	10.19
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
1986-87	2,366 (45.93)	3.68	4.70 (+1.11)	11,128 (57.77)	17.32
1987-88	2,269 (42.68)	3.53	3.38 (+0.63)	7,666 (47.90)	11.93
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
1986-87	5,150	3.53	3.74 (+0.56)	19,261	13.19
1987-88	5,317	3.64	3.01 (+0.34)	16,004	10.96

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

Table 20. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 755; 756; 815; 816; 753; 727; 653; 715; 738).

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)	10.78	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
1986-87	5,175 (58.74)	6.32	13.79 (+1.60)	71,369 (57.62)	87.21
1987-88	5,771 (60.30)	7.05	14.20 (+1.64)	81,984 (60.93)	100.18
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
1986-87	3,635 (41.26)	5.66	14.44 (+1.90)	52,500 (42.38)	81.73
1987-88	3,799 (39.70)	5.91	13.83 (+1.75)	52,570 (39.07)	81.84
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
1986-87	8,810	6.03	14.06 (+1.23)	123,869	84.80
1987-88	9,570	6.55	14.06 (+1.21)	134,554	92.11

a_ Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

b_ 95% confidence interval.

Table 21. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 374; 446; 549; 542; 484; 522; 431; 505; 588).

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
1986-87	3,401 (54.65)	4.16	7.53 (+1.00)	25,609 (53.94)	31.29
1987-88	4,487 (58.84)	5.48	9.15 (+1.09)	41,046 (58.07)	50.16
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
1986-87	2,821 (45.35)	4.39	7.75 (+1.12)	21,865 (46.06)	34.04
1987-88	3,138 (41.16)	4.88	9.45 (+1.42)	29,638 (41.93)	46.14
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
1986-87	6,222	4.26	7.63 (+0.75)	47,474	32.50
1987-88	7,625	5.22	9.27 (+0.87)	70,684	48.39

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 22. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 175; 180; 187; 190; 173; 210; 171; 167; 173).

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
1986-87	1,195 (58.08)	1.46	3.94 (+1.23)	4,714 (67.97)	5.76
1987-88	1,245 (55.49)	1.52	2.43 (+0.53)	3,020 (53.20)	3.69
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
1986-87	863 (41.92)	1.34	2.57 (+0.88)	2,221 (32.03)	3.46
1987-88	999 (44.51)	1.56	2.66 (+0.52)	2,657 (46.80)	4.14
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
1986-87	2,058	1.41	3.37 (+0.81)	6,935	4.75
1987-88	2,244	1.54	2.53 (+0.38)	5,677	3.89

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 23. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 146; 139; 145; 130; 111; 102; 103; 78; 92).

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	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
1986-87	382 (39.74)	0.47	1.71 (+0.40)	652 (37.06)	0.80
1987-88	402 (33.70)	0.49	2.19 (+0.84)	883 (33.33)	1.08
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
1986-87	579 (60.26)	0.90	1.91 (+0.40)	1,107 (62.94)	1.72
1987-88	791 (66.30)	1.23	2.23 (+0.50)	1,765 (66.67)	2.75
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
1986-87	961	0.66	1.83 (+0.29)	1,759	1.20
1987-88	1,193	0.82	2.22 (+0.43)	2,648	1.81

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 24. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 131; 158; 142; 129; 117; 166; 158; 224; 248).

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	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
1986-87	1,824 (66.07)	2.23	4.45 (+0.93)	8,125 (67.52)	9.93
1987-88	2,140 (66.53)	2.61	3.64 (+0.74)	7,801 (57.62)	9.53
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
1986-87	936 (33.93)	1.46	4.17 (+1.31)	3,909 (32.48)	6.09
1987-88	1,076 (33.47)	1.67	5.33 (+1.48)	5,738 (42.38)	8.93
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
1986-87	2,760	1.89	4.36 (+0.76)	12,034	8.24
1987-88	3,216	2.20	4.21 (+0.71)	13,539	9.27

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 25. Summary of striped skunk trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 258; 240; 179; 215; 128; 147; 154; 142; 186).

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
1986-87	1,134 (64.79)	1.39	2.95 (+0.59)	3,337 (69.85)	4.08
1987-88	1,673 (69.35)	2.04	2.73 (+0.53)	4,563 (73.33)	5.58
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
1986-87	616 (35.21)	0.96	2.34 (+0.60)	1,441 (30.15)	2.24
1987-88	739 (30.65)	1.15	2.25 (+0.52)	1,660 (26.67)	2.58
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
1986-87	1,750	1.20	2.73 (+0.44)	4,778	3.27
1987-88	2,412	1.65	2.58 (+0.40)	6,223	4.26

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 26. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 16; 17; 11; 16; 16; 18; 13; 16; 13).

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	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
1986-87	86 (43.75)	0.11	1.29 (+0.36)	111 (50.00)	0.14
1987-88	65 (38.46)	0.08	1.00 (+0.00)	65 (35.71)	0.08
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
1986-87	111 (56.25)	0.17	1.00 (+0.00)	112 (50.00)	0.17
1987-88	104 (61.54)	0.16	1.13 (+0.25)	118 (64.29)	0.18
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
1986-87	197	0.13	1.13 (+0.17)	223	0.15
1987-88	169	0.12	1.08 (+0.15)	183	0.13

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

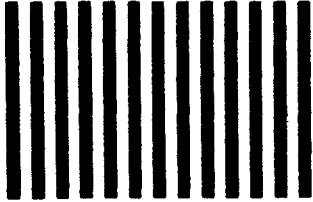
Table 27. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1987-88, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 102; 101; 129; 116; 147; 143; 125; 122; 154).

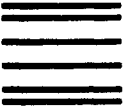
Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	894 (43.14) ^a	1.09	4.86 (+4.84) ^b	4,350 (59.44) ^a	5.32
1980-81	797 (41.58)	0.97	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
1986-87	678 (45.08)	0.83	3.38 (+1.47)	2,293 (52.25)	2.80
1987-88	960 (48.05)	1.17	4.07 (+1.86)	3,903 (51.02)	4.77
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
1986-87	825 (54.92)	1.28	2.54 (+0.63)	2,096 (47.75)	3.26
1987-88	1,037 (51.95)	1.61	3.61 (+1.18)	3,746 (48.98)	5.83
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
1986-87	1,503	1.03	2.92 (+0.75)	4,389	3.00
1987-88	1,997	1.37	3.83 (+1.08)	7,649	5.24

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

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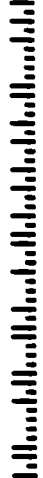




BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

Postage Will Be Paid by Addressee

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Wildlife Resources Division
Furbearer Section
 LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA
 524 NORTH SECOND STREET
 SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62704-0000



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 (1987 SERIES)**
Please Print Plainly

Name	TRAPPER JOE
Rural Route or Street Address	RR 1, Box 12
Post Office	HOMETOWN
Zip Code	61234
County of Residence	SANGAMON

Figure 1. Mail survey address card issued to license vendors in 1987-88 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 1987-88 post-season trapper mail survey.



LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787
CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH 60601
MARK FRECH, DIRECTOR

1

1987-88

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 1986-87 season, there were 753,384 pelts sold by Illinois fur-takers for a value to them of \$8,063,006. We need information on the trapped portion of the catch for the 1987-88 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



LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787
CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH 60601

2

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 resources.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Hubert, Jr." in a cursive style.

George Hubert, Jr.
Furbearer Biologist
Div. of Wildlife Resources

Figure 4. Letter of transmittal sent with first follow-up mailing in 1987-88 post-season trapper mail survey.



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

3-Trap

3

Dear Illinois Trapper:

This is to remind you that we would still 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
Div. of Wildlife Res.

Figure 5. Letter of transmittal sent with second follow-up mailing in 1987-88 post-season trapper mail survey.

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Division of Wildlife Resources -- Furbearer
Lincoln Tower Plaza
524 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9990
Attn: George Hubert, Jr.

**FURBEARER TRAPPING SURVEY
1987-1988 SEASON**

1. Did you trap for furbearers in Illinois during the 1987-88 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. What was the average number of traps you used during the 1987-88 season? _____
5. Have you ever attended a trapper education class sponsored by the Illinois Dept. of Conservation? Yes No
6. Please fill in ALL FOUR BLANKS for each kind of furbearer you trapped in Illinois during the 1987-88 season:

	TOTAL Number Caught in Traps	Number Caught in CONIBEAR Traps	Number Caught in LEGHOLD Traps	Number Caught in BOX/CAGE Traps
Muskrat	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mink	_____	_____	_____	_____
Raccoon	_____	_____	_____	_____
Opossum	_____	_____	_____	_____
Red fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
Gray fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
Beaver	_____	_____	_____	_____
Skunk	_____	_____	_____	_____
Weasel	_____	_____	_____	_____
Coyote	_____	_____	_____	_____

7. Did you catch any furbearers in Woodstream "Soft Catch" padded leghold traps during the 1987-88 season? Yes No If yes, please list what kind and how many: _____
8. Did you also HUNT furbearers with gun and/or dogs during the 1987-88 season? Yes No
If yes, please give the number of each kind taken:
Raccoon _____ Red Fox _____ Skunk _____
Opossum _____ Gray Fox _____ Coyote _____

NO POSTAGE REQUIRED.

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2826-87

The Department of Conservation is an equal opportunity employer.

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

ILA22-0387

Figure 6. Questionnaire for for post-season mail survey of Illinois trappers, 1987-88 season.

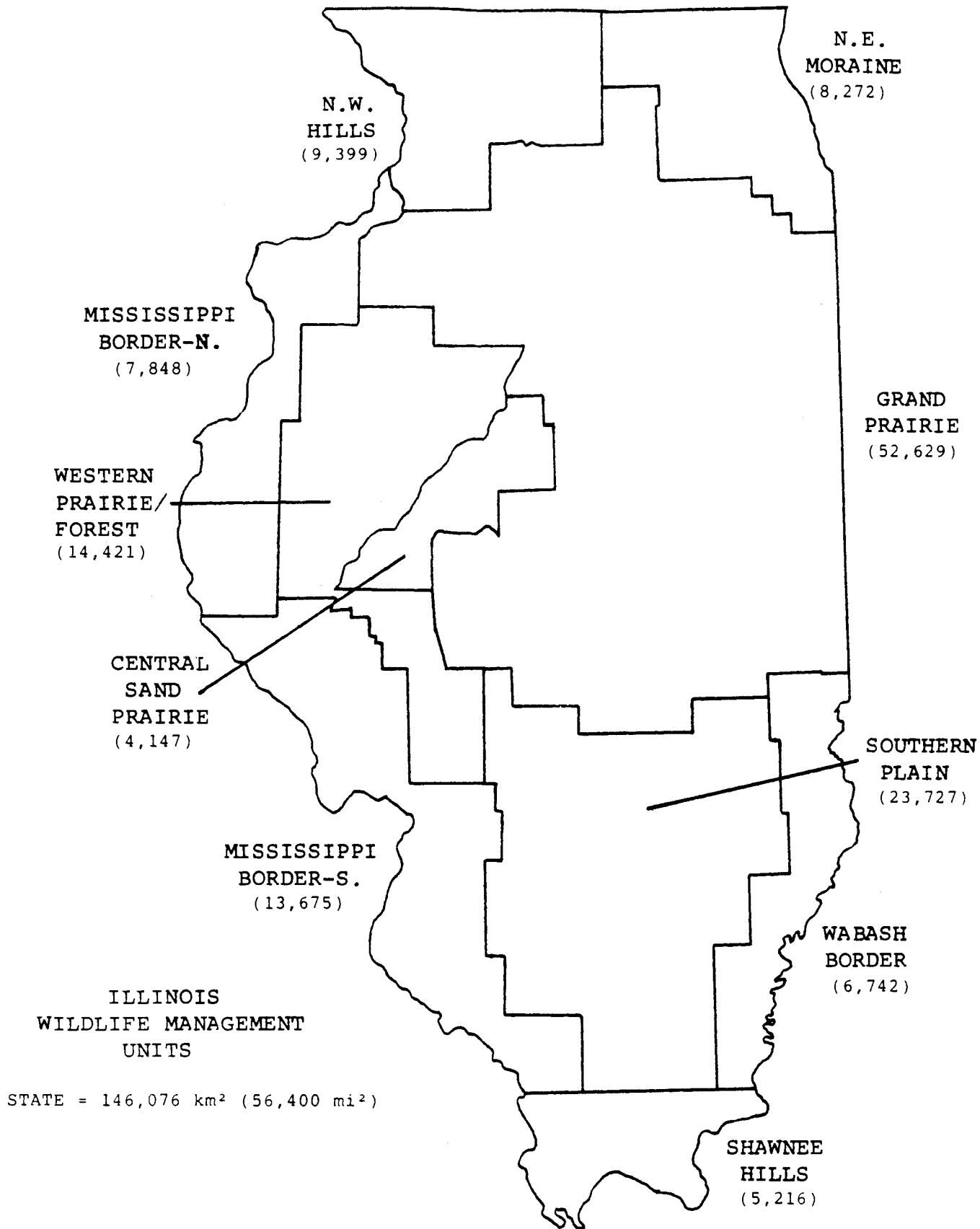


Figure 7. Area (km²) of wildlife management units in Illinois.



Figure 8. Furbearer management zones for the 1987-88 season.

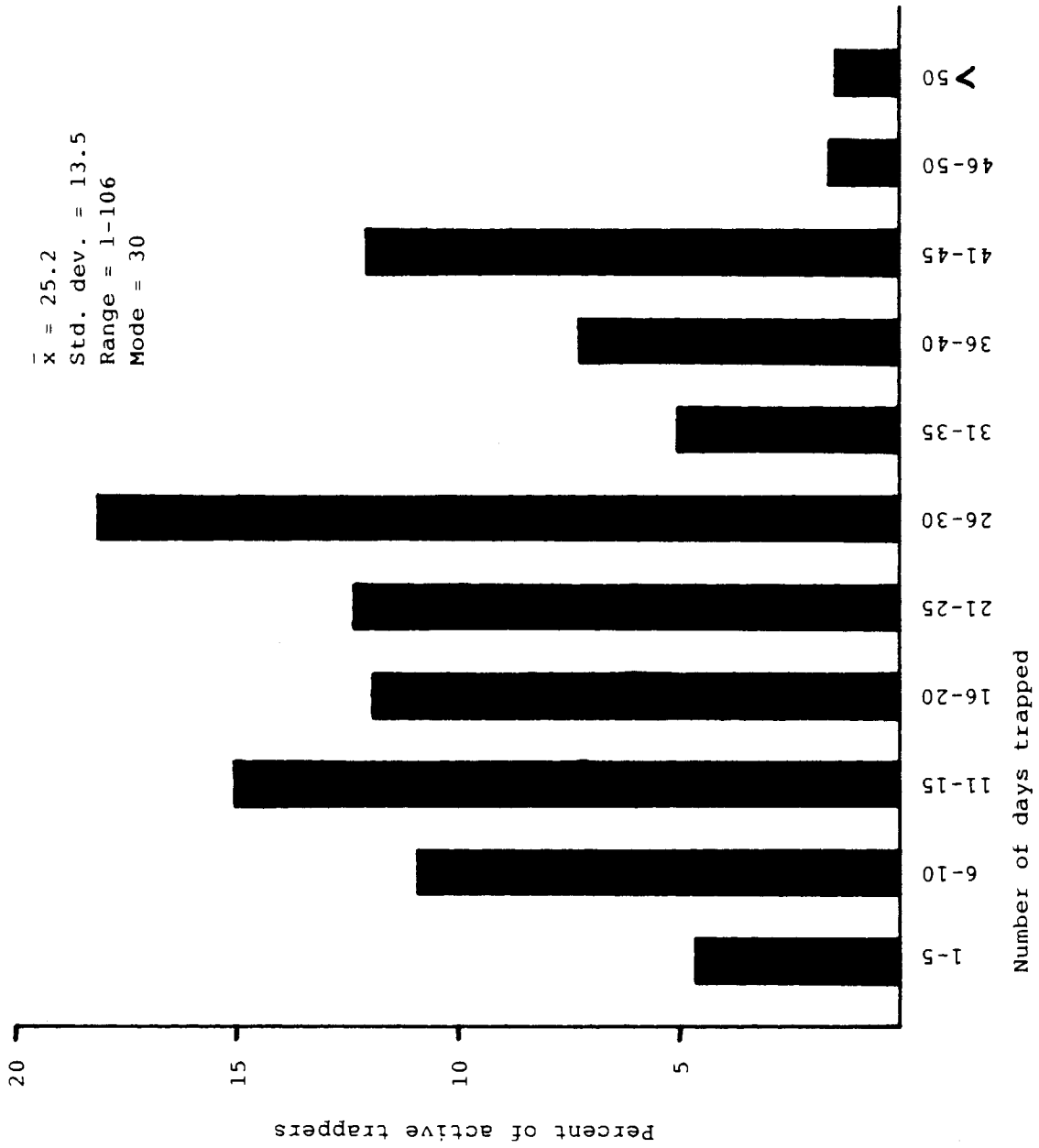


Figure 9. Distribution of days trapped per active trapper in Illinois, 1987-88 season (n = 807).

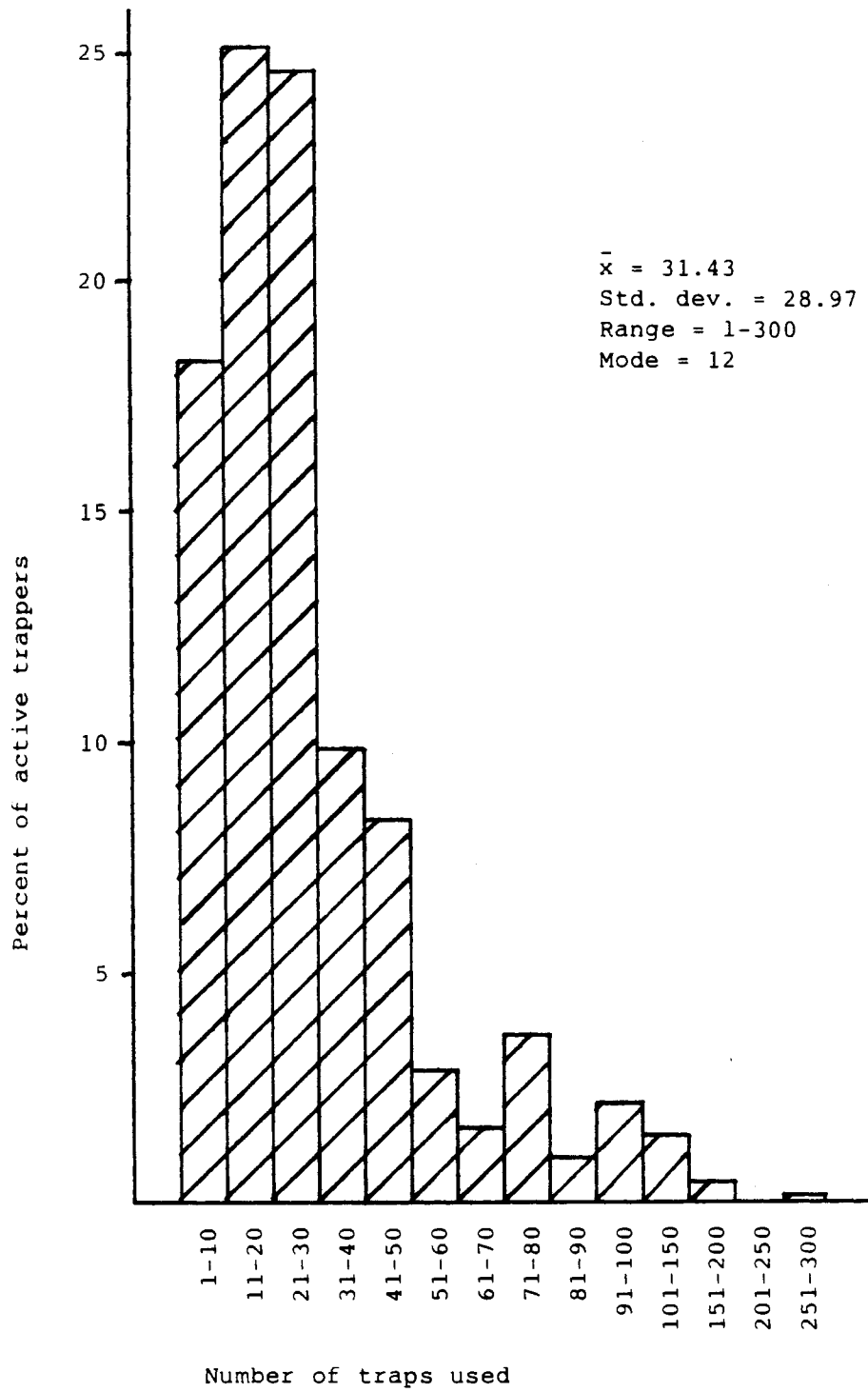


Figure 10. Distribution of number of traps used per active trapper in Illinois, 1987-88 season (n = 807).

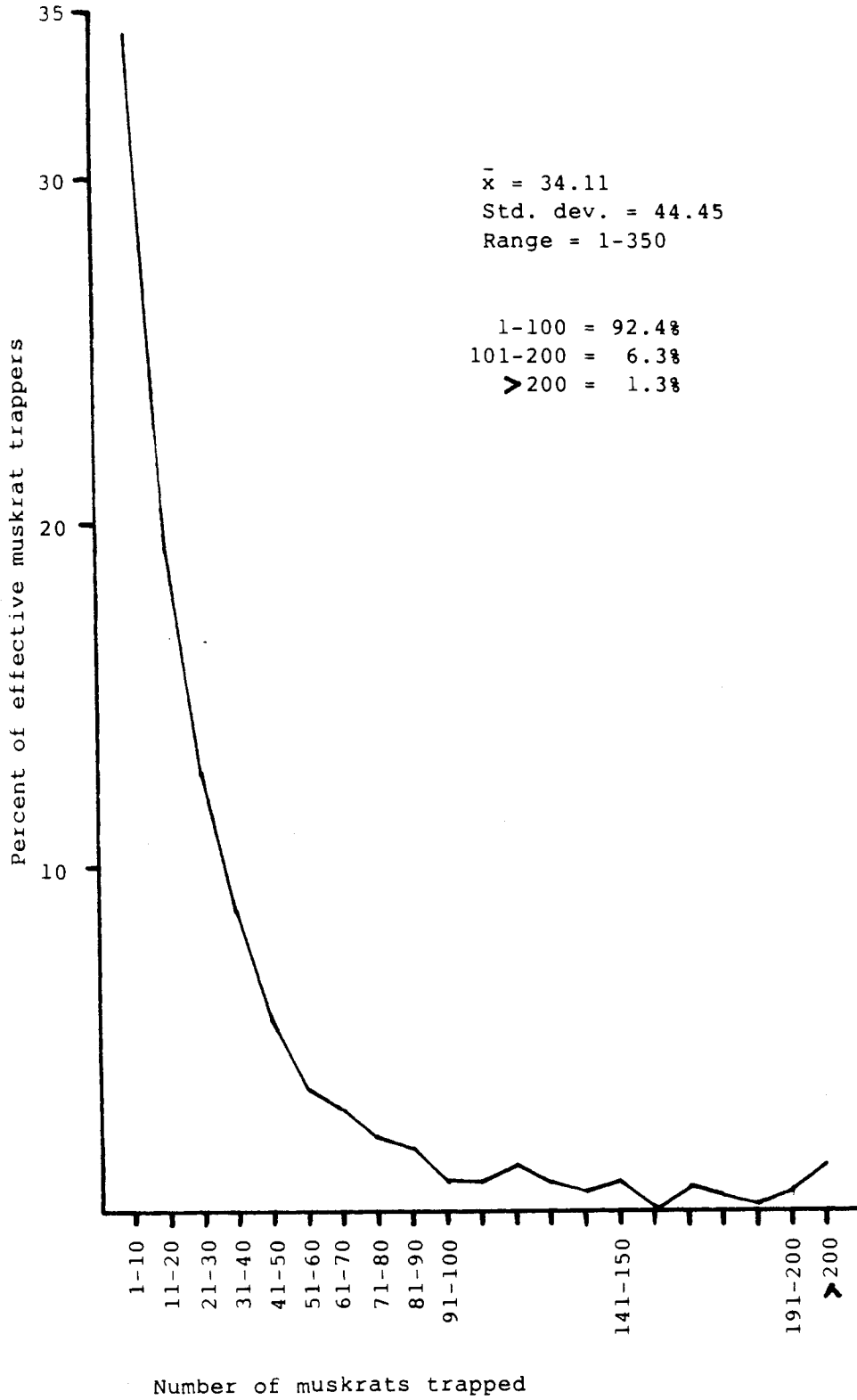


Figure 11. Distribution of muskrats trapped per effective muskrat trapper in Illinois, 1987-88 season (n = 676).

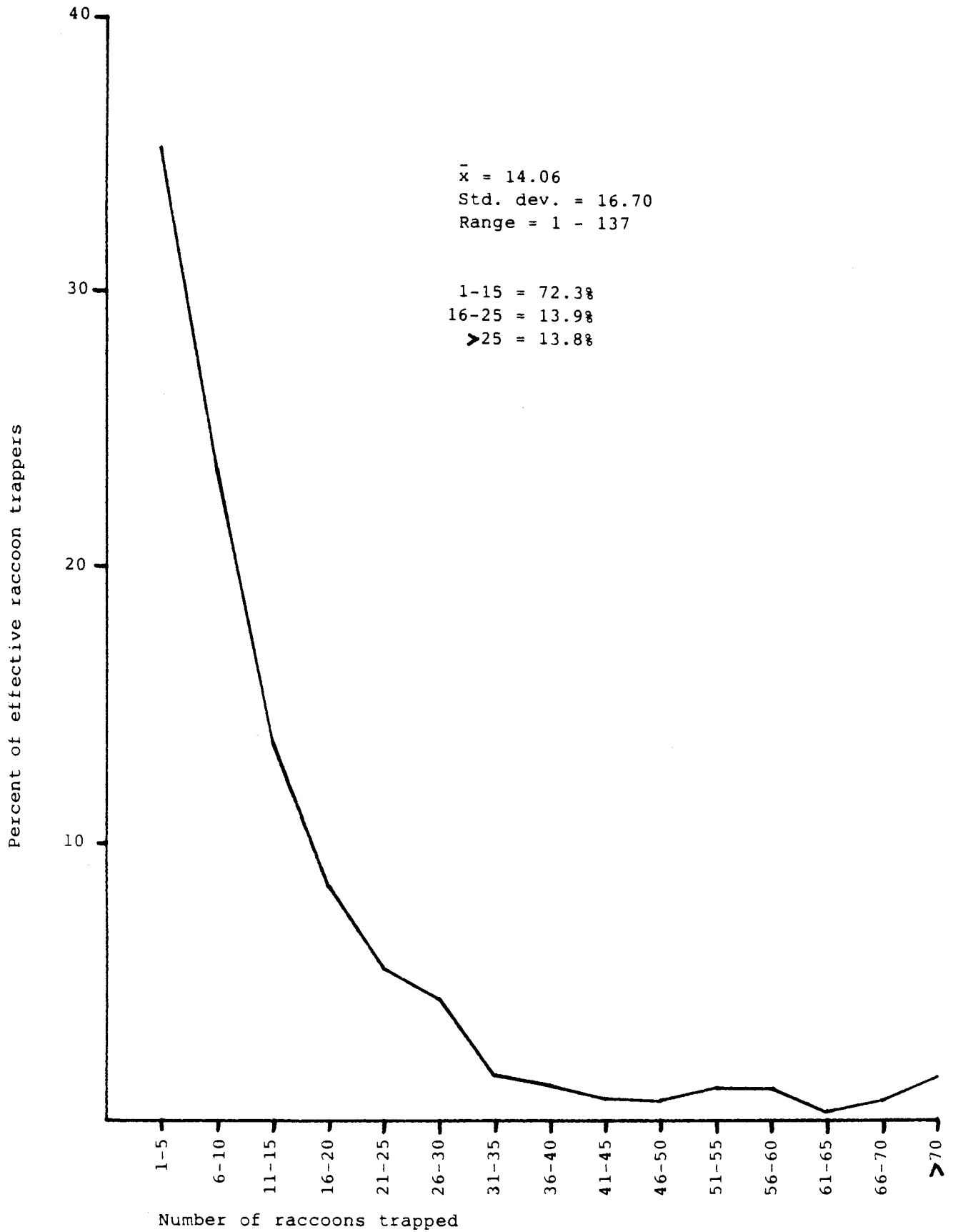


Figure 12. Distribution of number of raccoons trapped per effective raccoon trapper in Illinois, 1987-88 season (n = 738).



Figure 13. Existing furbearer management zones (based on county boundaries) used to prepare 1979-80 through 1987-88 season data summaries.

PERMISSION TO QUOTE

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1987/88



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