

HumanDimensions
Research Program

Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign



Federal Aid Project
Number W-112-R-31
Job Number 101.2
Wildlife Restoration
Oct. 1, 2021 - Sept. 30, 2022

Natalie Phelps Finnie,
Director, Illinois Department
of Natural Resources

Paul Vehlow,
Federal Aid Coordinator

Mike Wefer,
Chief, Division of Wildlife
Resources



2021-2022 Illinois Trapper Report: Harvest, Effort, and Trapper Opinions



Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.
Program Leader and Principal Investigator
Human Dimensions Research Program
Illinois Natural History Survey

Prepared by
Brent D. Williams, Craig A. Miller,
Lauren J. Stephens, and Eric M. Walberg

INHS Technical Report 2023 (35)
November 29, 2022

Key words: Trappers, harvest, effort, and trapper opinions.

Suggested Citation:

Williams, B.D., C.A. Miller, L.J. Stephens, and E.M. Walberg. 2022. 2021-22 Illinois Trapper Report: Harvest, Effort, and Trapper Opinions. Job Completion Report, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration W-112-R-31. Human Dimensions Research Program Report HR-21-02/INHS Technical Report 2023 (35). Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL. 58pp.

2021-22
ILLINOIS TRAPPER REPORT:
Harvest, Effort, and Marketing Practices
JOB COMPLETION REPORT
WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-31
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.2

Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.
Human Dimensions Research Program
Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois

Prepared by
Brent D. Williams, Craig A. Miller,
Lauren J. Stephens, and Eric M. Walberg

Illinois Natural History Survey
Champaign, IL
November 29, 2022

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-31
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Mike Wefer, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion, or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.

LIST OF TABLES, FIGURES AND APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1..... License purchasers that set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2021-22 trapping season.....	2
Figure 2..... Distribution of active trappers by zones in Illinois.....	2
Figure 3..... Comparison of trapping activity in 2020-21to 2021-22 estimates.....	3
Figure 4..... Distribution of days of trapping by active trappers during 2021-22 trapping season	3
Figure 5..... South Zone trappers' opinion of the 2021-22 opening date	4
Figure 6..... North Zone trappers' opinion of the 2021-22 opening date.....	4
Figure 7..... South Zone trappers' opinion of the 2021-22 closing date.....	5
Figure 8..... North Zone trappers' opinion of the 2021-22 closing date.....	5
Figure 9..... Distribution of the number of muskrats trapped per successful muskrat trapper in Illinois	6
Figure 10..... Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per successful raccoon trapper in Illinois	6
Figure 11..... Where trappers sold furs outside of Illinois.....	7
Figure 12..... How trappers most often prepared sold furs	7
Figure 13..... Percent change in number of successful trappers and harvest by species from 2020-21 to 2021-22 season	8
Figure 14..... 2010-2021 change in Muskrat harvest.....	8
Figure 15..... 2010-2021 change in Mink harvest.....	9
Figure 16..... 2010-2021 change in Raccoon harvest.....	10
Figure 17..... 2010-2021 change in Opossum harvest.....	10
Figure 18..... 2010-2021 change in Red Fox harvest	11
Figure 19..... 2010-2021 change in Gray Fox harvest	11
Figure 20..... 2010-2021 change in Beaver harvest	12
Figure 21..... 2010-2021 change in Skunk harvest	12
Figure 22..... 2010-2021 change in Weasel harvest	13
Figure 23..... 2010-2021 change in Coyote harvest	13
Figure 24..... 2010-2021 change in Badger harvest.....	14
Figure 25..... 2015-2021 change in Otter harvest.....	14
Figure 26..... 2017-2021 change in Bobcat harvest	15
Figure 27..... 2010-2021 change in All Species harvest.....	15
Figure 28..... Trappers who hunted furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2021-22 season	16
Figure 29..... Type of land on which respondents most often hunted furbearers	16
Figure 30..... Percent of furbearer hunters who hunted with dogs during the 2021-22 season	17
Figure 31..... Breed of dogs used most often for hunting furbearers.....	17
Figure 32..... Percent of furbearer hunters who feel safe hunting after sunset in Illinois.....	17
Figure 33..... Percent of furbearer hunters who hunted after sunset.....	17
Figure 34..... Trappers who sighted badgers.....	18
Figure 35..... Trappers who sighted sign of badgers.....	18
Figure 36..... Trappers who sighted gray fox	19
Figure 37..... Trappers who sighted sign of gray fox	19
Figure 38..... Trappers who sighted sign of otter.....	19
Figure 39..... Change in the amount of otter sign seen over the past 5 years.....	19
Figure 40..... Change in the amount of bobcat sign seen over the past 5 years.....	20
Figure 41..... Gender of respondents	21
Figure 42..... Age of trappers when they started trapping	21
Figure 43..... Percentage of respondents who have mentored a new trapper	22
Figure 44..... Percentage of respondents who know someone interested in trapping	22
Figure 45..... Description of type of land respondents set traps on most often.....	23
Table 1 Participation and harvest by fur trappers in Illinois, 2021-22 season.....	25
Table 2 Distribution of reported furbearer harvest among successful trappers in Illinois.....	26
Table 3 Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of resident trappers in Illinois	26
Table 4 Muskrat WMU ^a	27
Table 5 Mink WMU	27
Table 6 Otter WMU	28
Table 7 Raccoon WMU.....	28
Table 8 Opossum WMU	29
Table 9 Red Fox WMU	29
Table 10 Gray Fox WMU	30
Table 11 Beaver WMU	30
Table 12 Striped Skunk WMU.....	31
Table 13 Weasel WMU	31
Table 14 Coyote WMU	32
Table 15 Badger WMU	32
Table 16 Bobcat WMU	33
Table 17 Muskrat FMZ ^b	33
Table 18 Mink FMZ.....	33
Table 19 Otter FMZ.....	34
Table 20 Raccoon FMZ.....	34
Table 21 Opossum FMZ.....	34
Table 22 Red Fox FMZ.....	35
Table 23 Gray Fox FMZ.....	35

Table 24	Beaver FMZ	35
Table 25	Skunk FMZ	36
Table 26	Weasel FMZ	36
Table 27	Coyote FMZ	36
Table 28	Badger FMZ	37
Table 29	Bobcat FMZ	37
Table 30	Number of pelts sold by successful trappers, 2021-22 season	38
Table 31	Estimated statewide harvest by resident Illinois trappers	39
Table 32	Summary of fur hunting activities reported by trappers in Illinois	40
Table 33	Trappers who saw badgers or signs of badgers by the county in Illinois	41
Table 34	Trappers who saw gray fox or signs of gray fox by the county in Illinois	42
Table 35	Types of traps owned and used by active Illinois trappers	43
Table 36	Distribution of active trappers by county trapped most in Illinois	44
Table 37	Distribution of respondents by county of residence	45
Appendix A	Illinois Trapper Survey: 2021-22 Season	46
Appendix B	Cover letter sent with first mailing of the 2021-22 Trapper Survey	54
Appendix C	Thank you/reminder postcard sent as follow-up to the mailings	55
Appendix D	Cover letter sent with second mailing of the 2021-22 Trapper Survey	56
Appendix E	2021-22 Season dates and limits information	57
Appendix F	Wildlife management units and furbearer management zones in Illinois	58

^a WMU = Wildlife Management Unit

^b FMZ = Furbearer Management Zones

ABSTRACT

We sampled 1,200 of 2021-22 resident Illinois trapping license purchasers from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources licensing database. Licensees were mailed an 8-page questionnaire, and we received 545 (45%) questionnaires. Trapping license sales decreased 2.8% from 2020-21 (7,217) to 2021-22 (7,016). Trappers set an average of 12.7 traps for an average of 23.3 days or nights during the 2021-22 season and harvested an estimated 136,294 furbearers (down 16.5% from the 163,292 harvested in 2020-21). An estimated 67,288 raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) were trapped during the 2021-22 Illinois trapping season, a decrease of 7.6% from the estimated 72,836 trapped during the 2020-21 season. Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) harvest was the next highest at 22,386 muskrats (29.4% decrease from the previous year).

OBJECTIVE

To survey furbearer (13 species of mammals) trappers annually to determine their activities, harvests, characteristics, and opinions in Illinois.

METHODS

A random sample of 1,200 resident Illinois trappers who purchased a trapper license (2021-22) was selected from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) license sales database. Each trapper was mailed an 8-page questionnaire (Appendix A), cover letter (Appendix B), and a postage-paid return envelope on 20 June 2022. The initial sample of 1,200 licenses was reduced to 1,178 due to undeliverable addresses. Nonrespondents were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) on 11 July 2022. Remaining non-respondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 01 August 2022. Trappers who did not respond to the previous mailings were mailed a second thank you/reminder postcard on 31 August 2022. A third final questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) were sent on 30 September 2022. Season date information can be found in Appendix F.

RESULTS

A total of 545 license purchasers responded with usable questionnaires, resulting in a 45% response rate. Using procedures adopted by Anderson and Campbell (1992), we calculated trapper participation and harvest for all furbearer species in Illinois (Tables 1-29). The results were organized by wildlife management units (WMUs, Appendix F), furbearer management zones, and statewide for presentation.

Trapper Participation

Of the 535 respondents, 378 (58.1%) set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2020-21 season (Figure 1). There were slightly more trappers in the north zone than the south (Figure 2). Active trappers set an average of 12.7 traps for an average of 23.3 days or nights (Figure 3). Maximum number of days a trapper could have trapped was 142 (Appendix F); 18.4% set traps for > 30 days and 9.0% of trappers set traps for > 50 days (Figure 4).

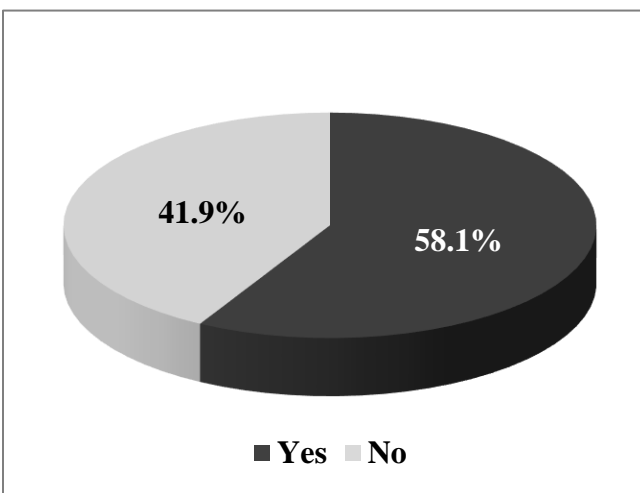


Figure 1. License purchasers who set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2021-22 trapping season ($n = 535$).

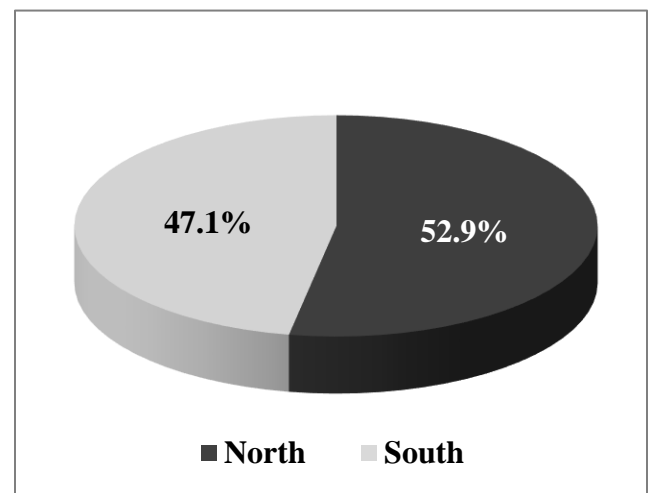


Figure 2. Distribution of active trappers by zones in Illinois ($n = 312$).

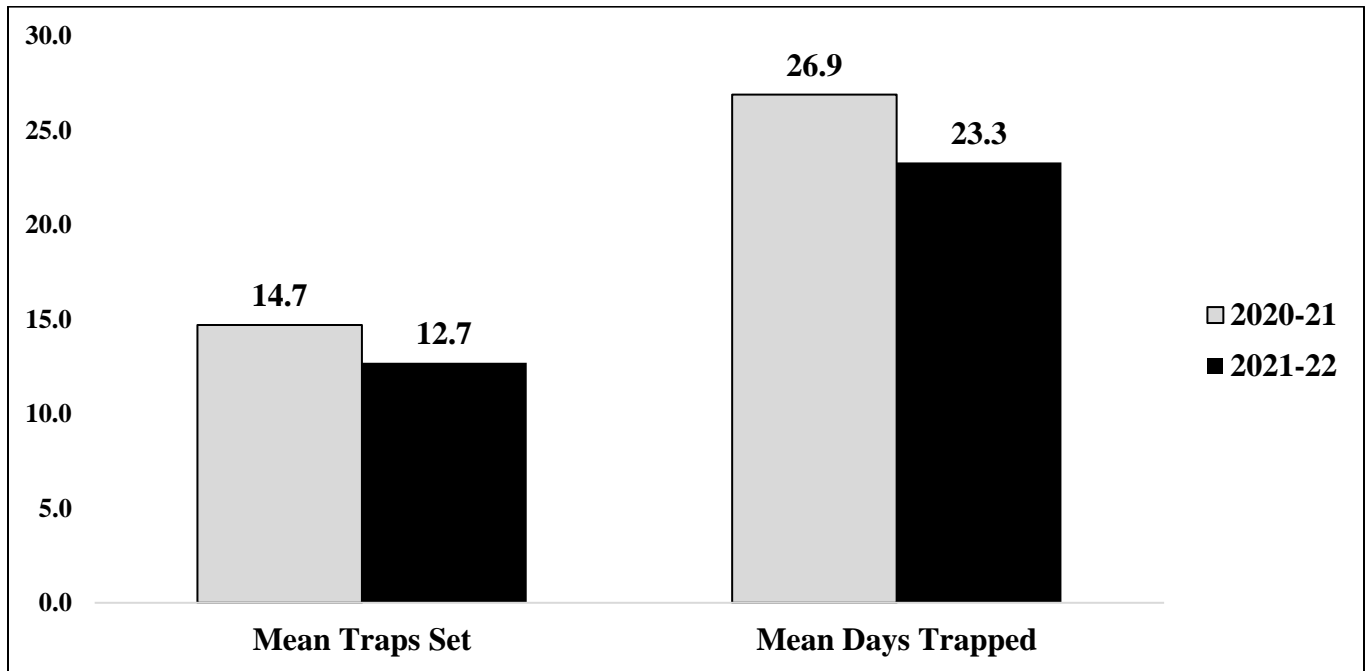


Figure 3. Comparison of trapping activity reported in 2020-21 and 2021-22 Illinois Trapper Survey.

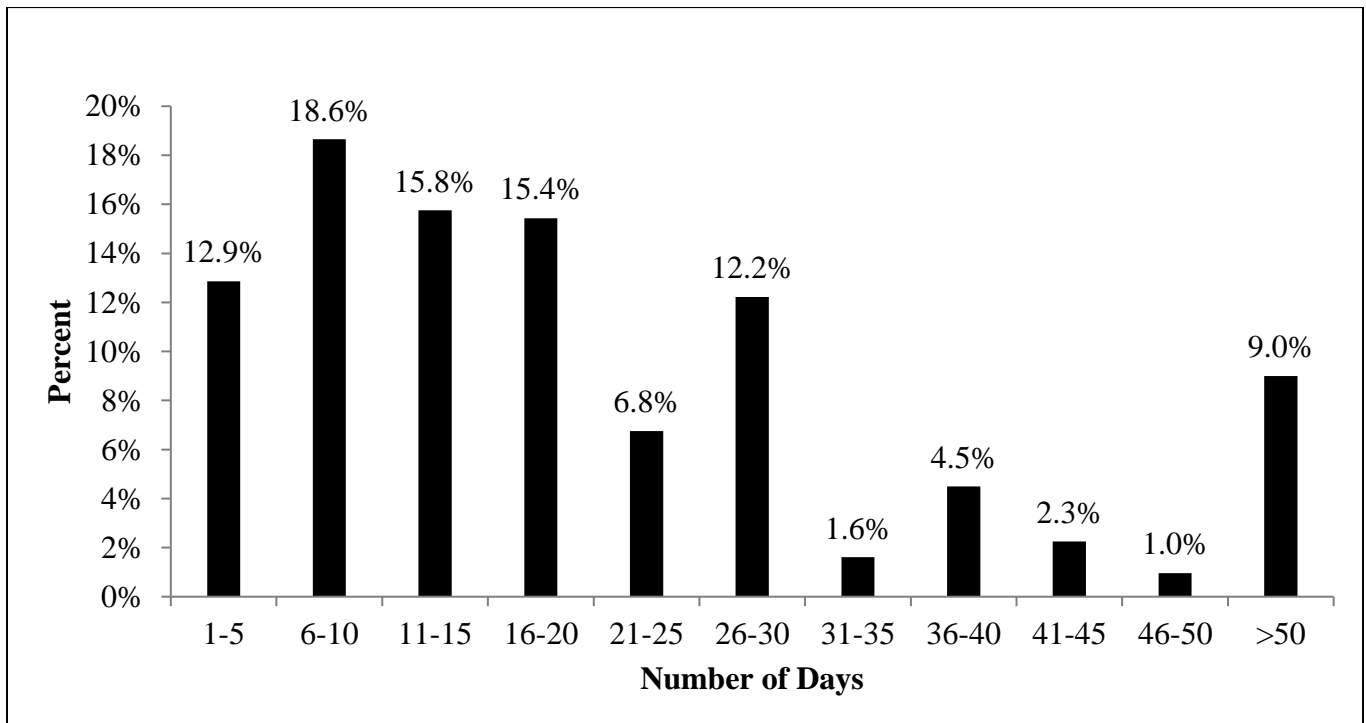


Figure 4. Distribution of days of trapping by active trappers in Illinois, 2021-22 season ($n = 311$).

Participation during the 2021-22 season was highest among raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) trappers, estimated at 2,885 successful trappers statewide (Table 3), an increase of 0.2% from the 2020-21 trapping season. Beaver

(*Castor canadensis*) trapping was second 1,600 successful trappers, opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*; 1,508 successful trappers), coyote (*Canis latrans*; 1,403 successful trappers), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*; 1,338 successful trappers), striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*; 997 successful trappers), and otter (*Lontra canadensis*; 734 successful trappers). Mink (*Neovison vison*; 498 successful trappers), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*; 354 successful trappers), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*; 210 successful trappers), badger (*Taxidea taxus*; 66 successful trappers), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*; 13 successful trappers), and weasel (*Mustela frenata* and *nivalis*; 13 successful trappers) were the least trapped species.

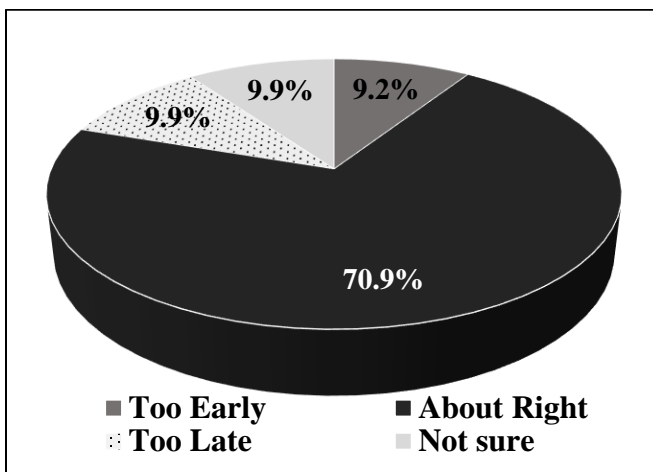


Figure 5. South Zone trappers' opinion of the 2021-22 opening date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1 day trapping ($n = 159$).

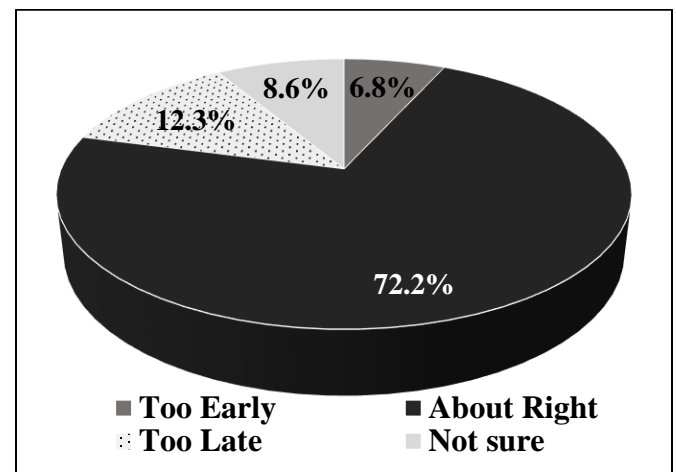


Figure 6. North Zone trappers' opinion of the 2021-22 opening date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1 day trapping ($n = 162$).

Trappers who spent at least one day trapping were asked to give their opinion of the timing of opening and closing dates in the zone they trapped most often. Seventy-one percent of trappers in the southern zone said that the opening date was about right (Figure 5), as compared to 72.2% in the northern zone (Figure 6). Most southern zone trappers (62.0%) felt the closing dates were about right, and 22.5% indicated it was too early (Figure 7). Similarly, most northern zone trappers (63.5%) felt the closing dates were about right (Figure 8).

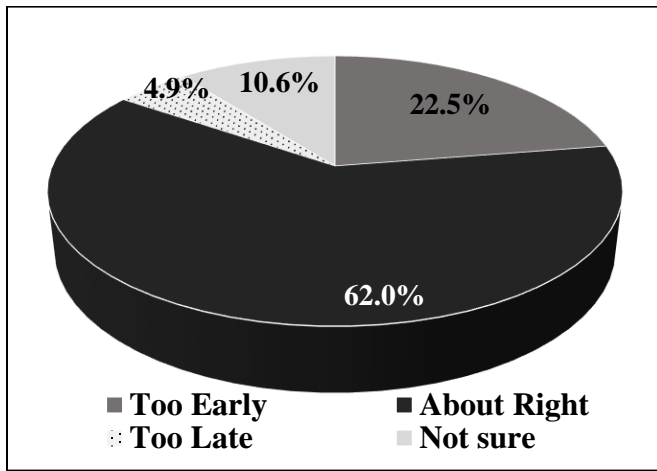


Figure 7. South Zone trappers' opinion of the 2021-22 closing date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1 day trapping ($n = 142$).

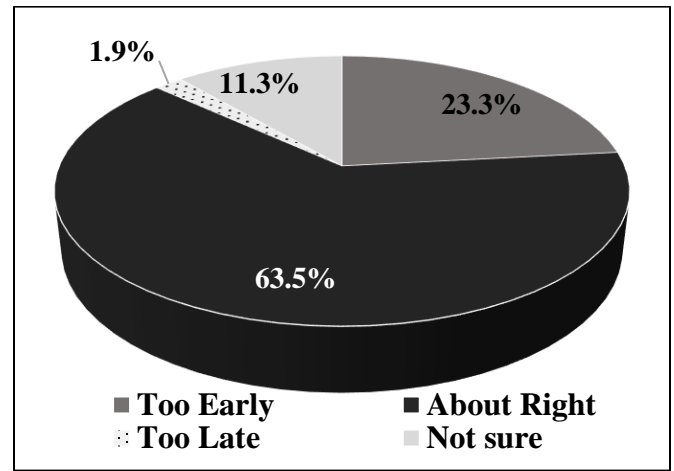


Figure 8. North Zone trappers' opinion of the 2021-22 closing date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1 day trapping ($n = 141$).

Harvest

An estimated 67,288 raccoons were trapped during the 2021-22 Illinois trapping season (Table 3), a decrease of 7.6% from the estimated 72,836 trapped during the 2020-21 season. Muskrat (22,386; 29.4% decrease from previous year) was next highest, followed by opossum (15,002; 1.3% decrease from previous year), beaver (13,665; 26.1% decrease from previous year), coyote (9,665; 39.8% decrease from previous year), skunk (3,908; 20.6% increase from previous year), and otter (1,784; 19.0% decrease from previous year). The number of muskrats harvested averaged 16.7 per trapper and ranged from 1-187 (Figure 9), and the number of raccoons harvested averaged 23.3 per trapper and ranged from 1-304 (Figure 10). Confidence intervals (95%) for trapper participation and harvest of each species are presented in Table 3.

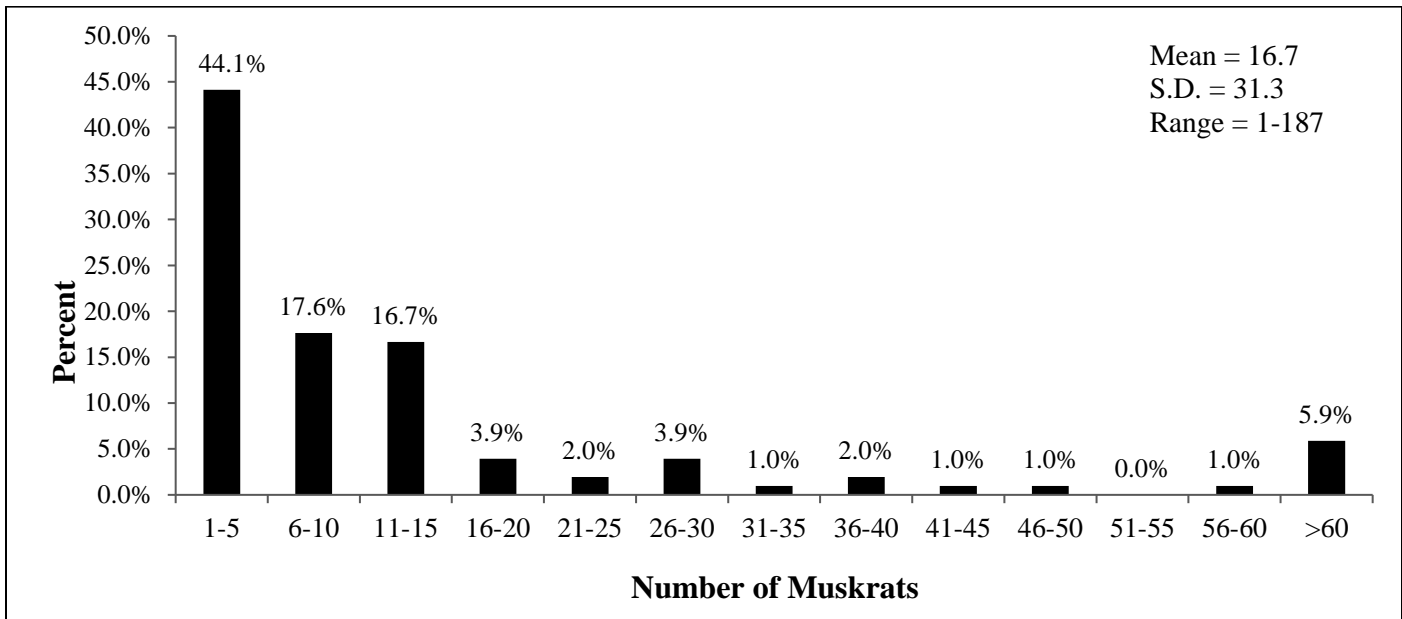


Figure 9. Distribution of the number of muskrats trapped per successful muskrat trapper in Illinois, 2021-22 season ($n = 102$).

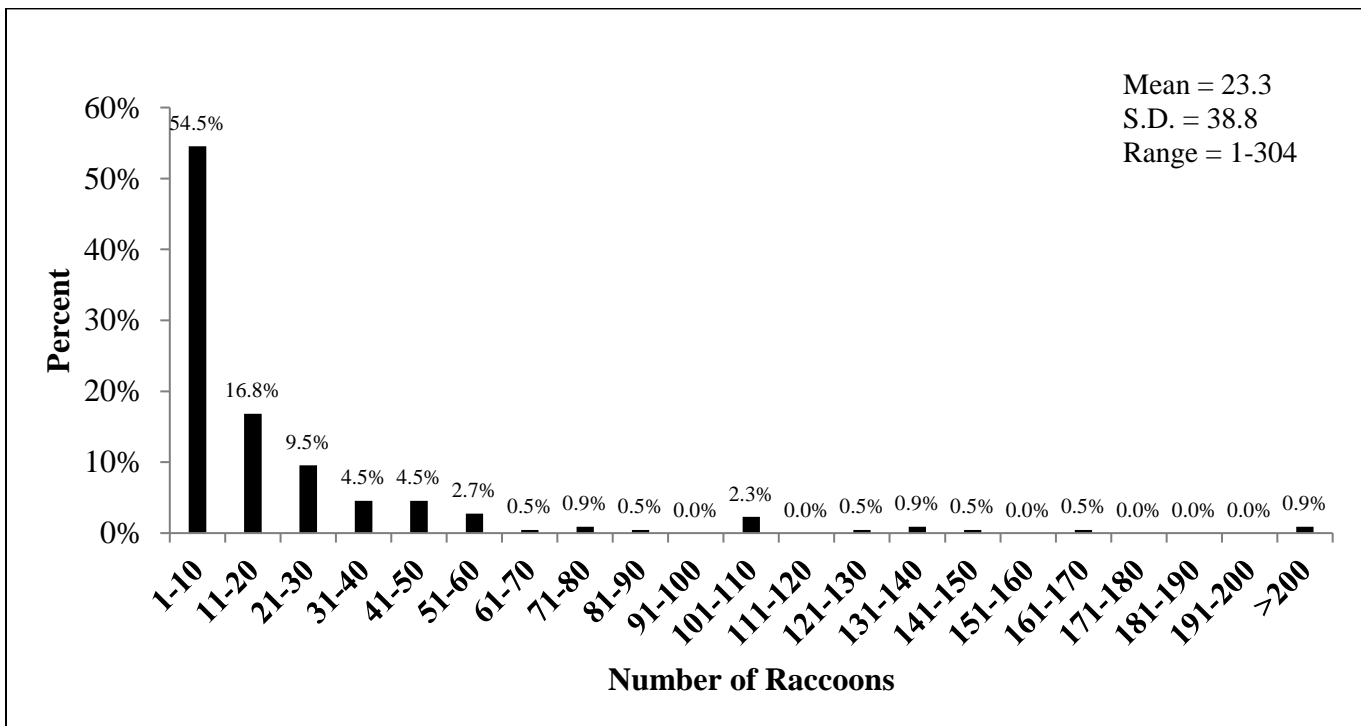


Figure 10. Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per successful raccoon trapper in Illinois, 2021-22 season ($n = 220$).

Harvest and trapping effort for each species are reported for each wildlife management unit and furbearer management zone (Tables 4-29). Estimated number of pelts sold in 2021-22 is presented by species (Table 30). Twenty-eight trappers (5.3%) sold furs out of Illinois, and most (54%) sales outside Illinois were sold in Canada (Figure 11). The states in which furs were sold, in decreasing order of popularity, were: Missouri, Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Furs were most often sold stretched and dried (Figure 12). Trends in statewide harvests of furbearers for the previous 10 years are listed in Table 31.

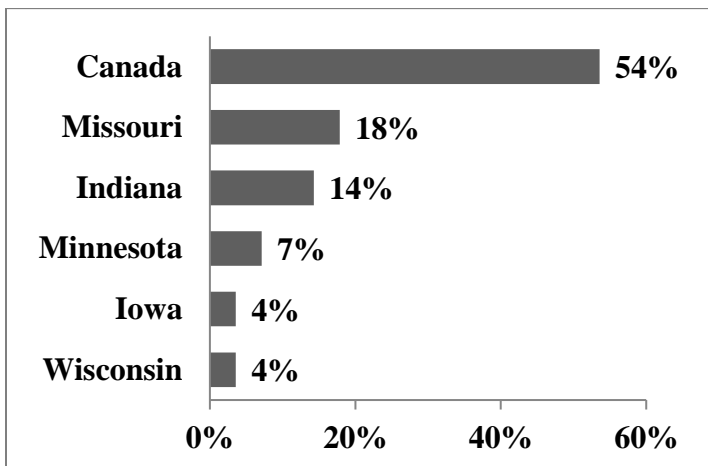


Figure 11. Where trappers sold furs outside of Illinois ($n = 28$).

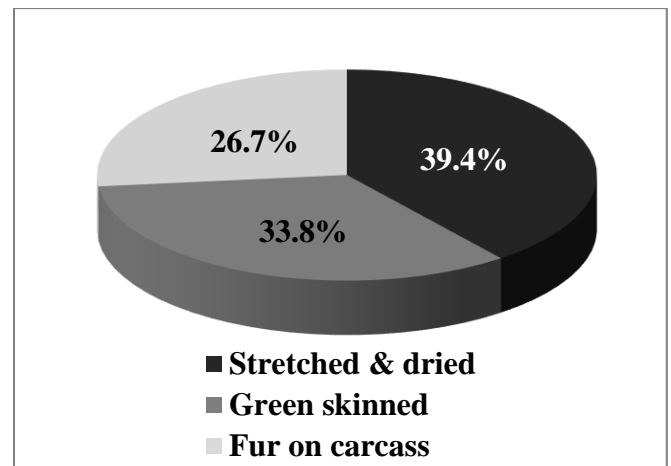


Figure 12. How trappers most often prepared sold furs ($n = 393$).

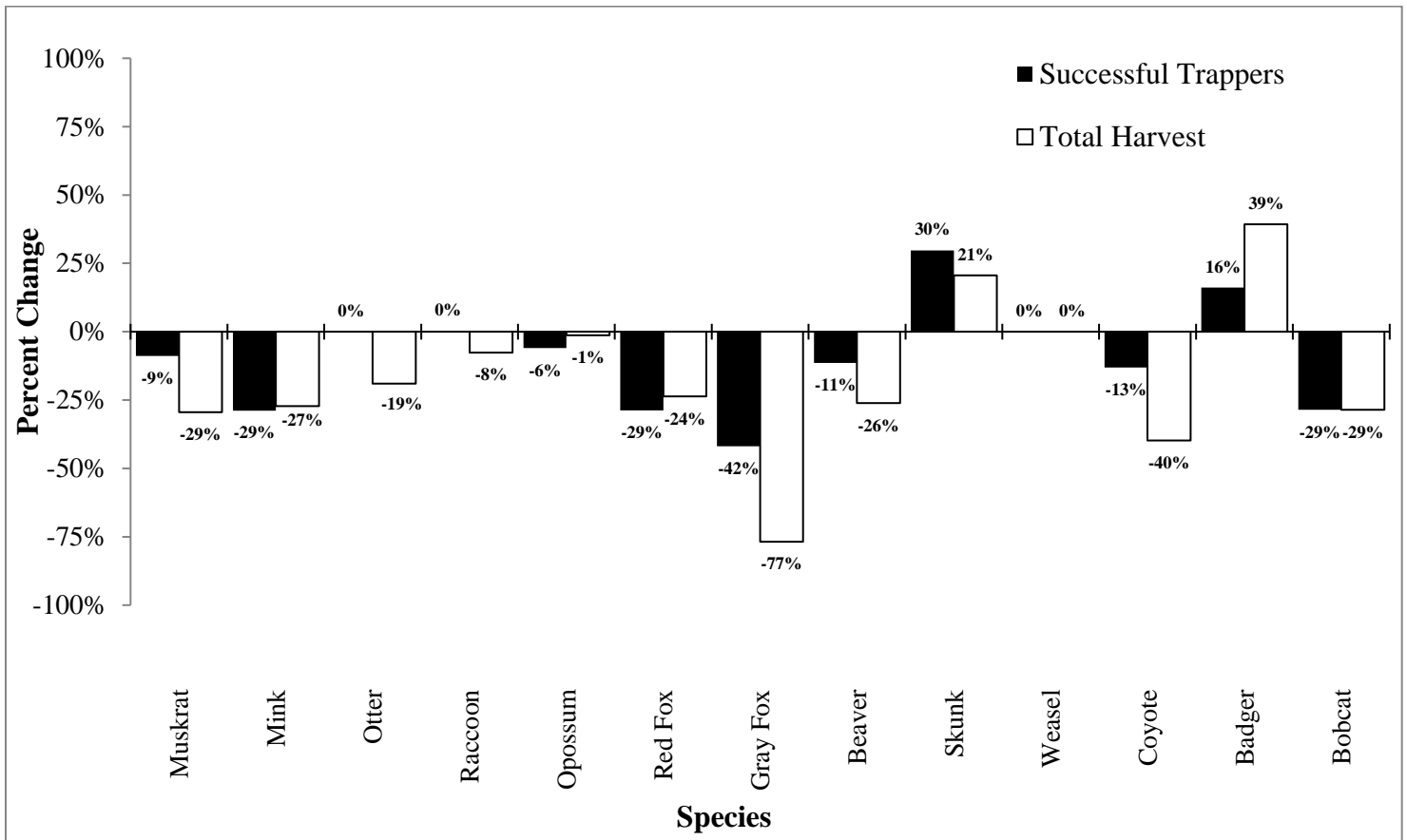


Figure 13. Percent change in number of successful trappers and harvest by species between 2020-21 and 2021-22 license years.

Changes in Trapper Participation and Harvest

The number of Illinois residents participating in trapping decreased 2.8% during 2021-22 from 2020-21 (7,016 from 7,217 licenses, respectively). Average season harvest per trapper decreased for beaver, coyote, gray fox, muskrat, otter, raccoon, skunk, and weasel. Estimated total harvest increased for skunk and badger. The largest decreases in total harvest were for gray fox (-77%) followed by coyote (-40%), and muskrat (-29%; Figure 13). Changes in trapper harvest over the past ten years (2010-2020) for each species type and all species are shown in Figures 14-27. Ten-year trends for otter and bobcat harvest data have not yet been established and therefore are not included in the figures provided below.

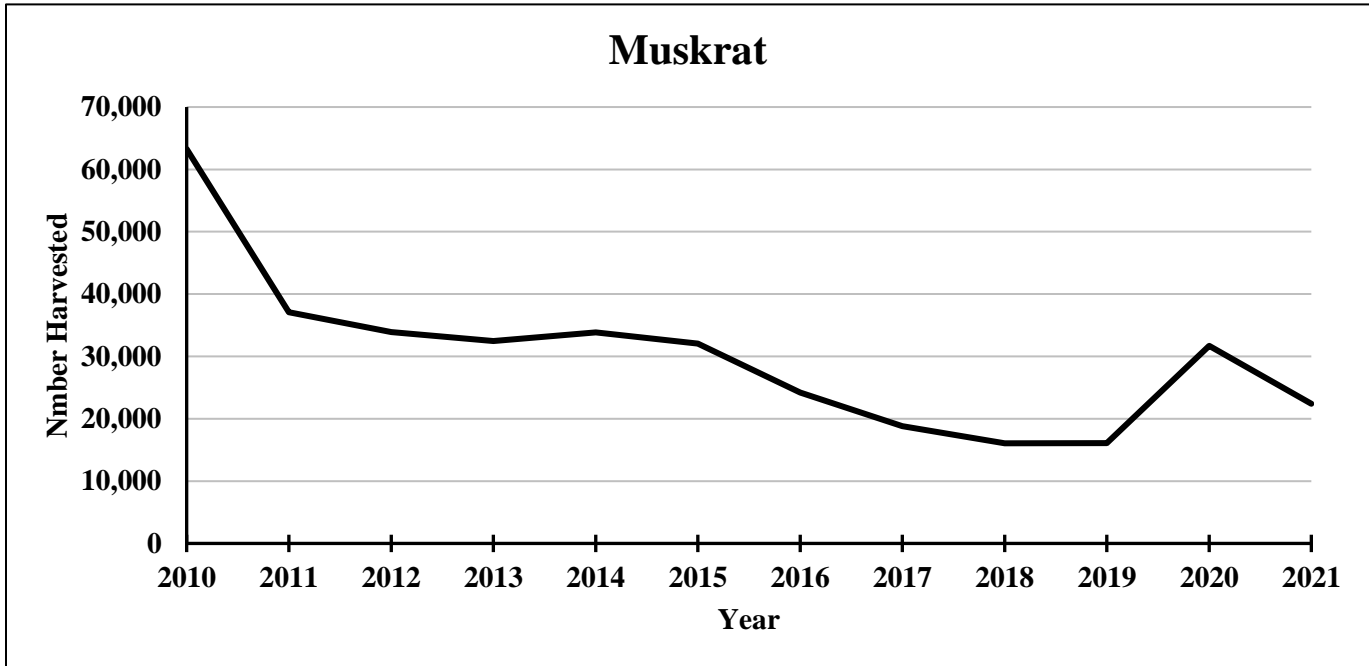


Figure 14. Muskrat harvest 2010 to 2021.

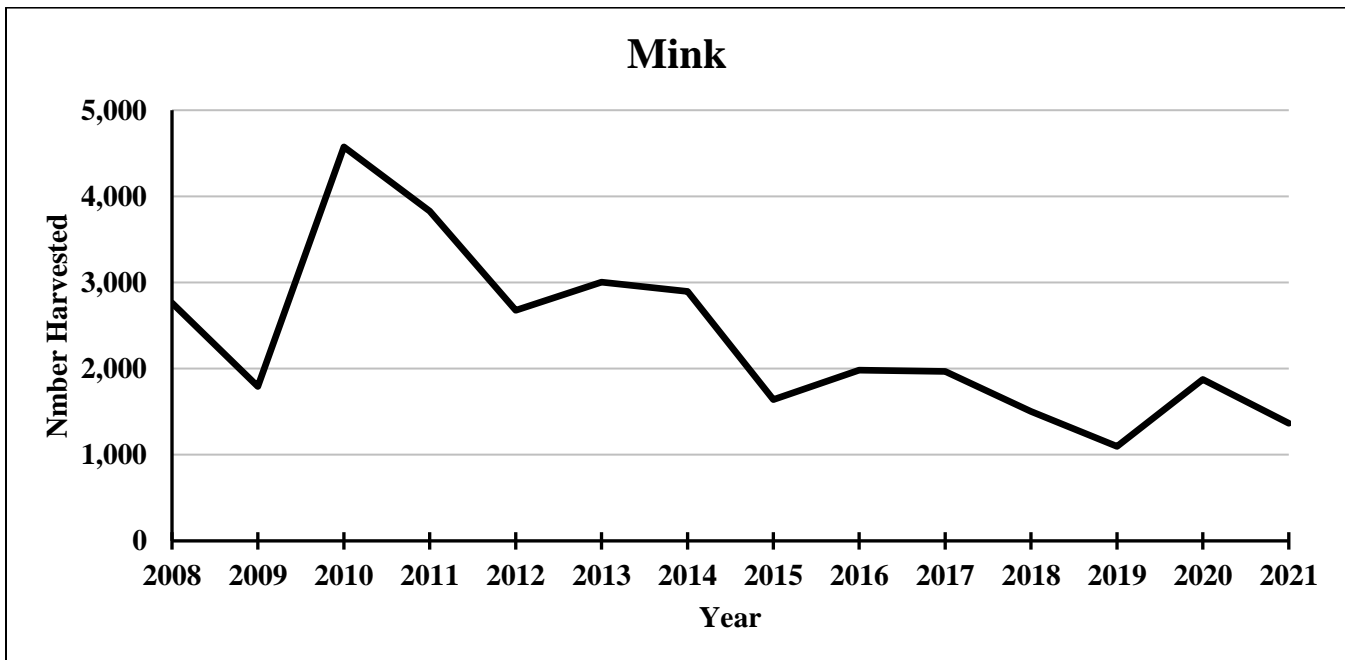


Figure 15. Mink harvest 2010 to 2021.

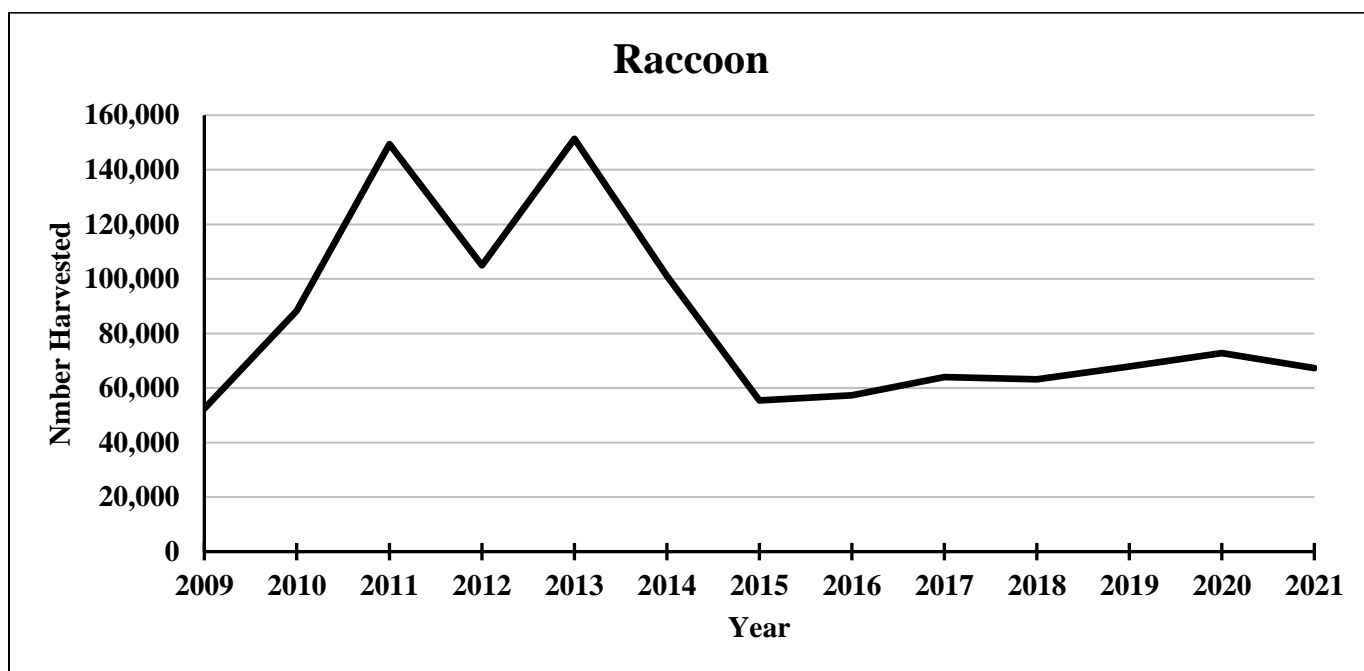


Figure 16. Raccoon harvest 2010 to 2021.

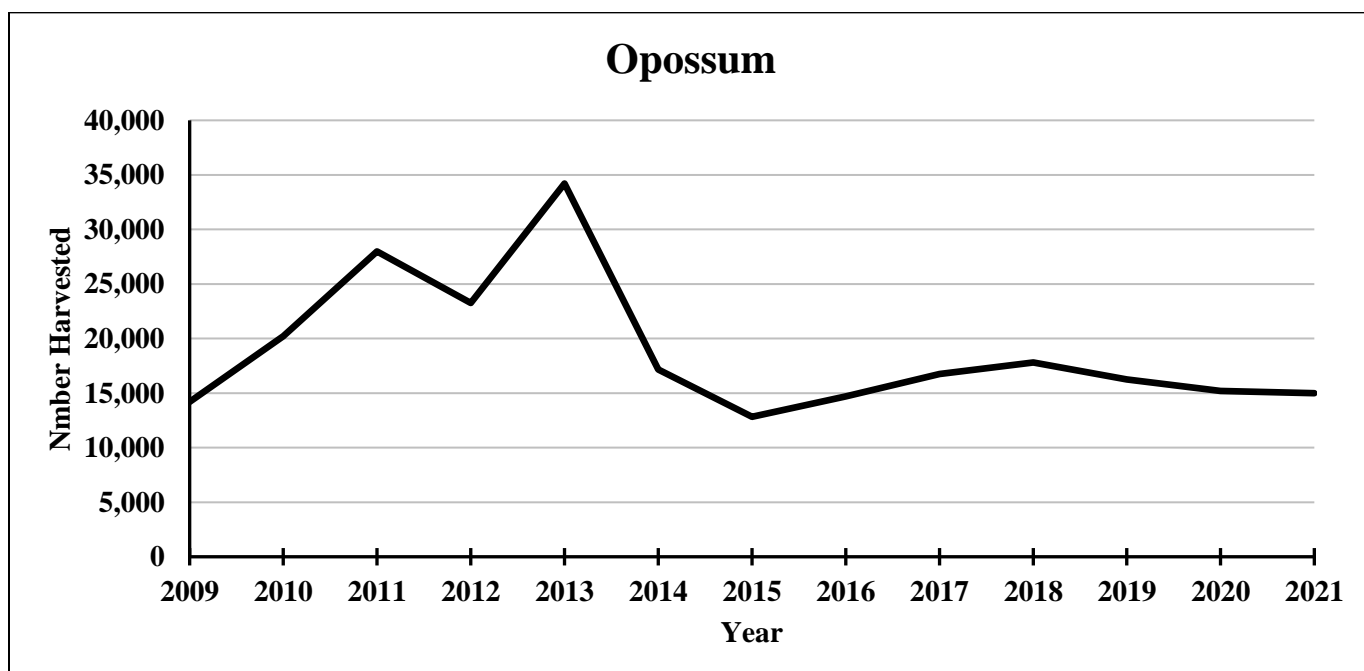


Figure 17. Opossum harvest 2010 to 2021.

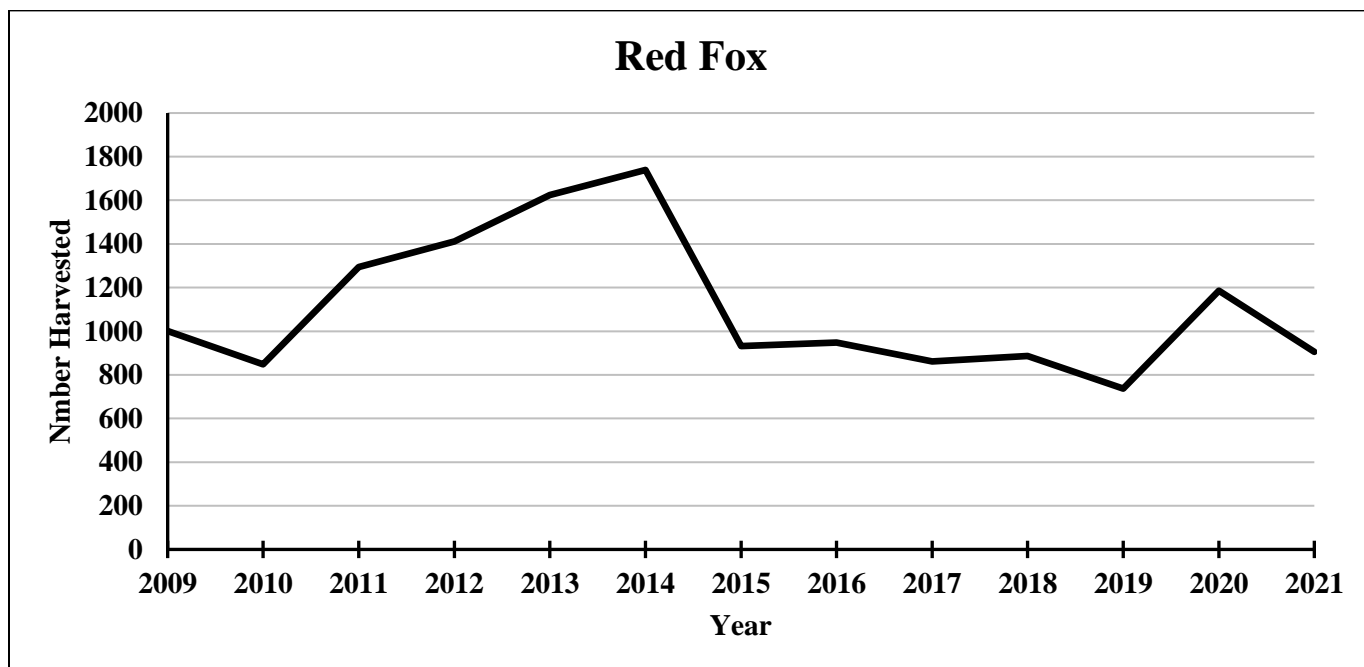


Figure 18. Red Fox harvest 2010 to 2021.

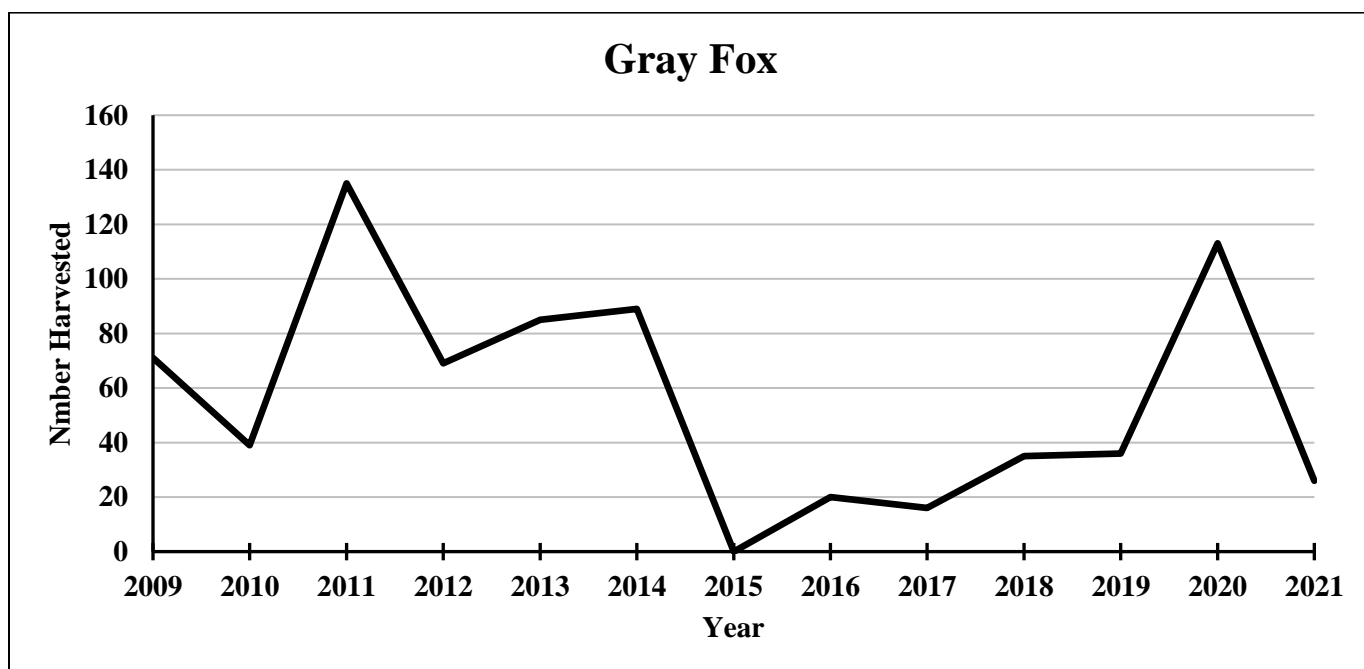


Figure 19. Gray Fox harvest 2010 to 2021.

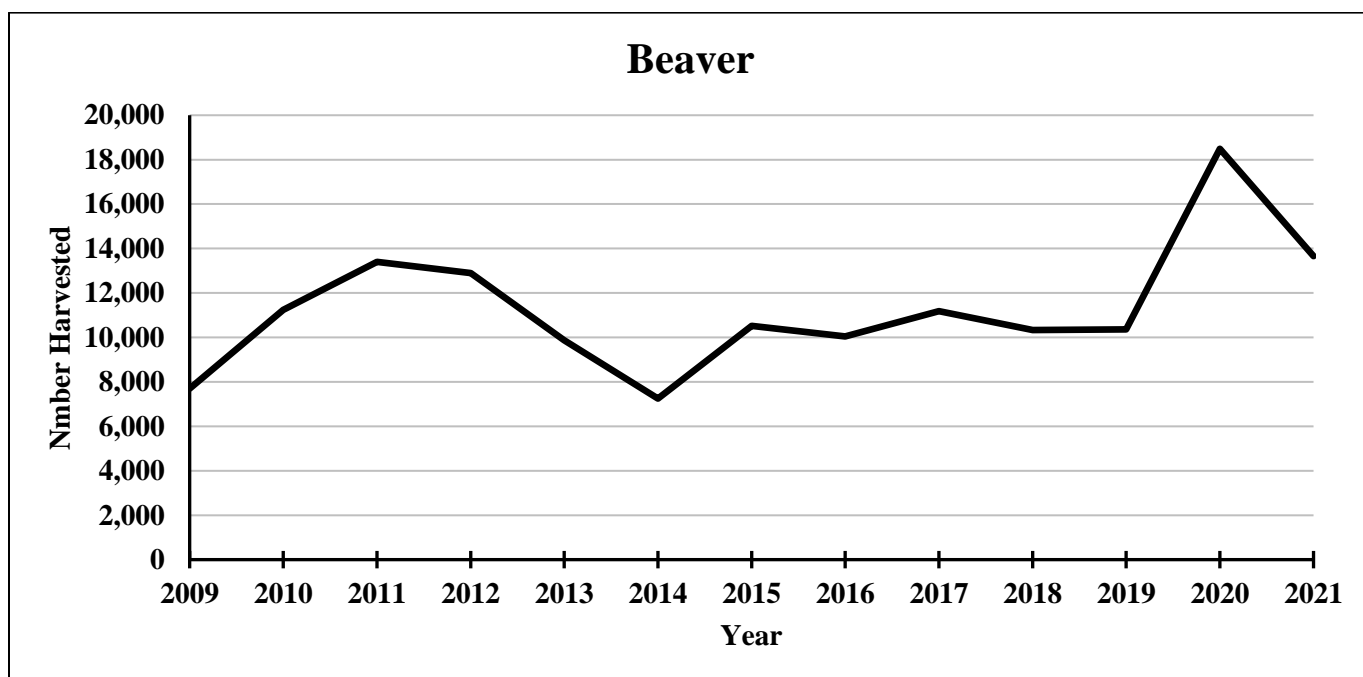


Figure 20. Beaver harvest 2010 to 2021.

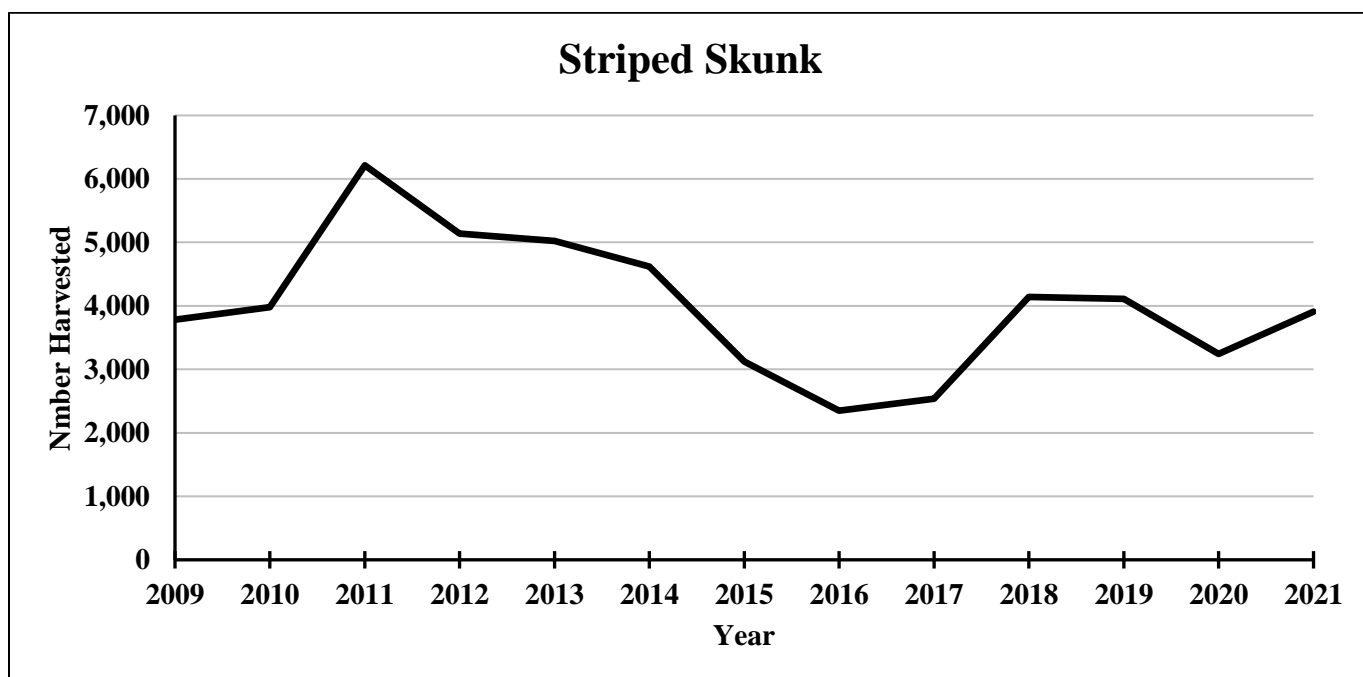


Figure 21. Striped Skunk harvest 2010 to 2021.

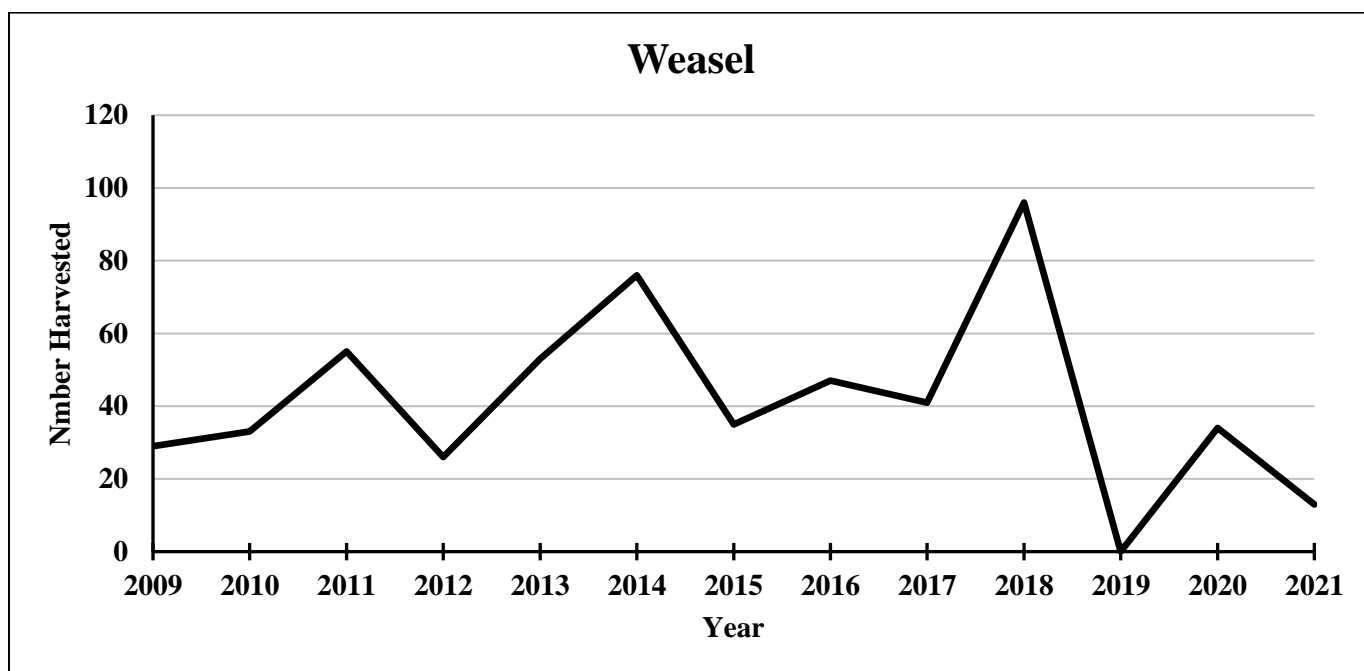


Figure 22. Weasel harvest 2010 to 2021.

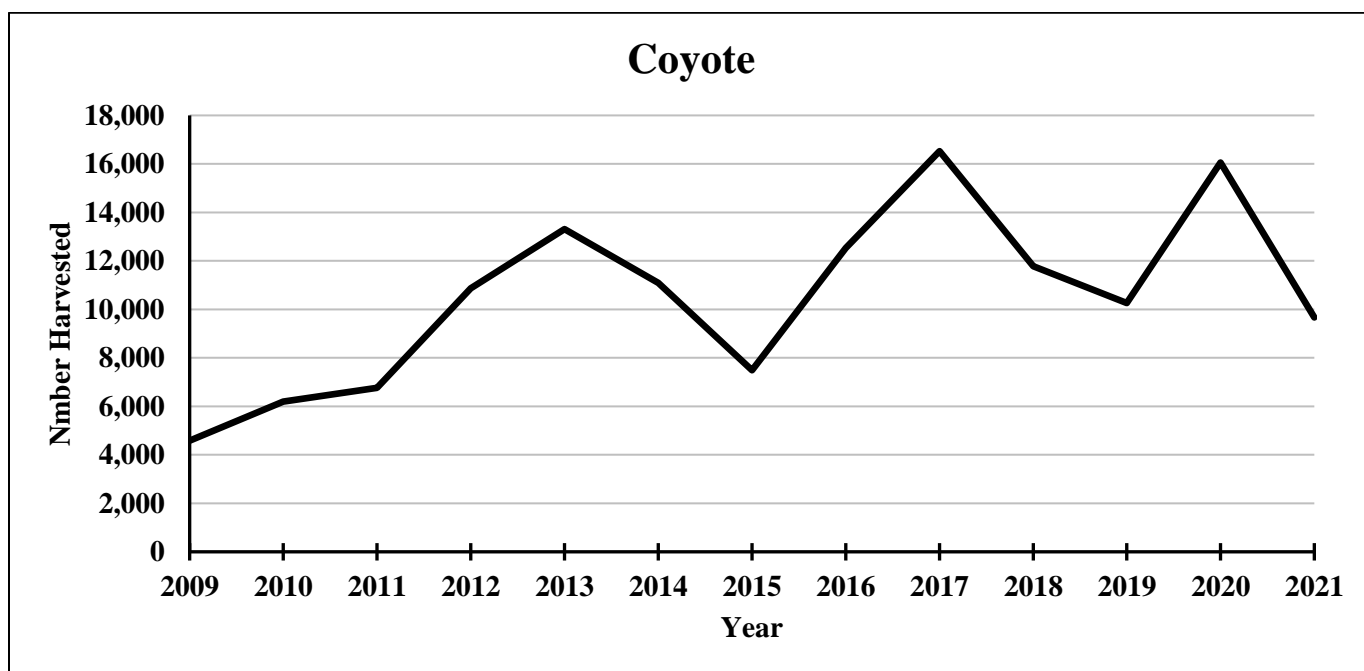


Figure 23. Coyote harvest 2010 to 2021.

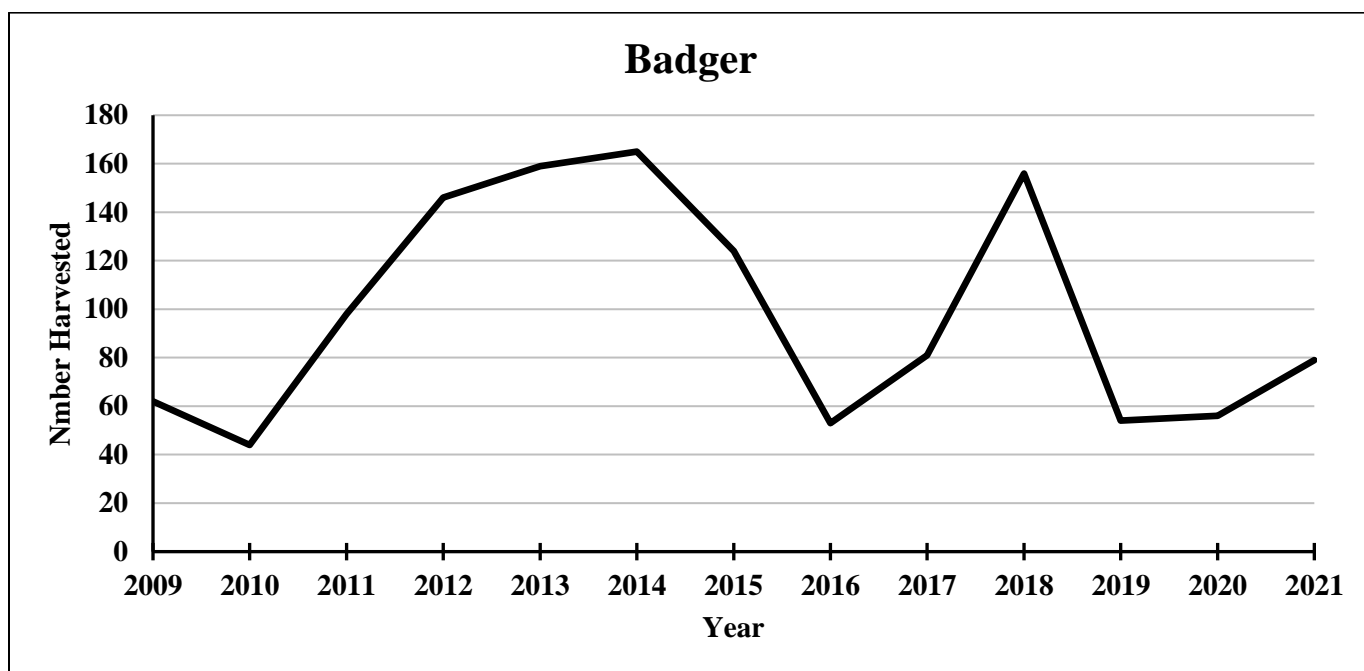


Figure 24. Badger harvest 2010 to 2021.

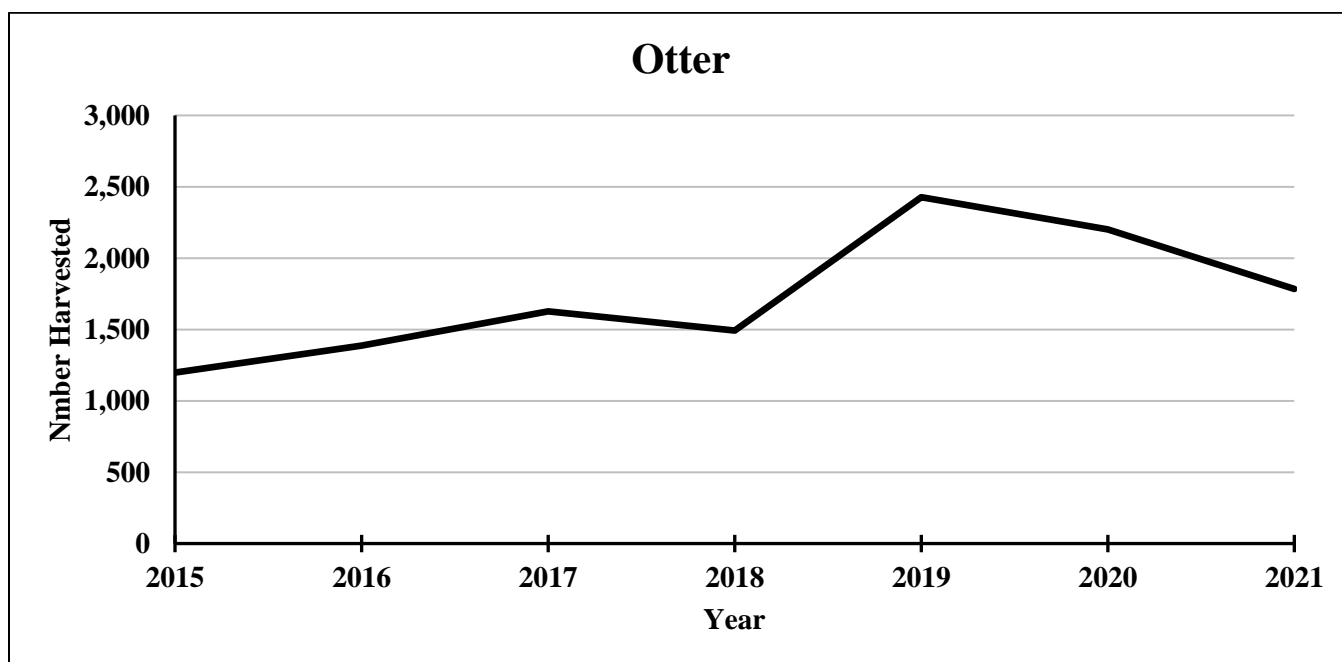


Figure 25. Otter harvest 2015 to 2021.

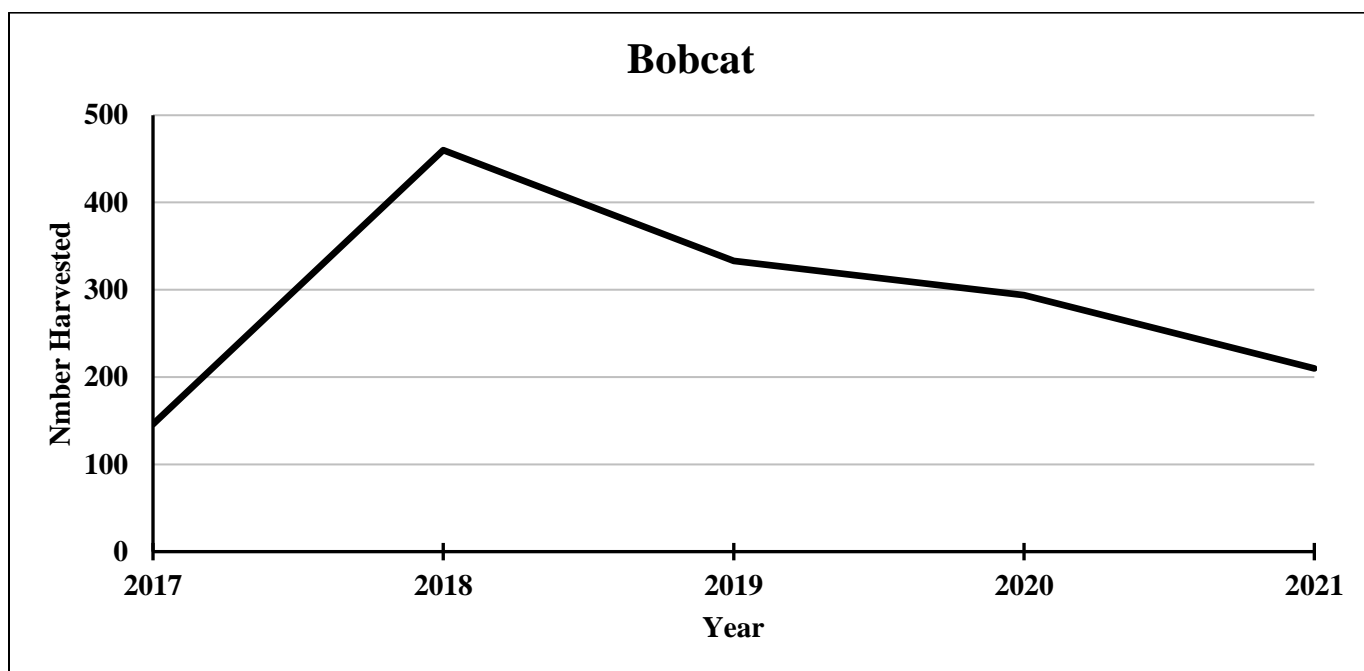


Figure 26. Bobcat harvest 2017 to 2021.

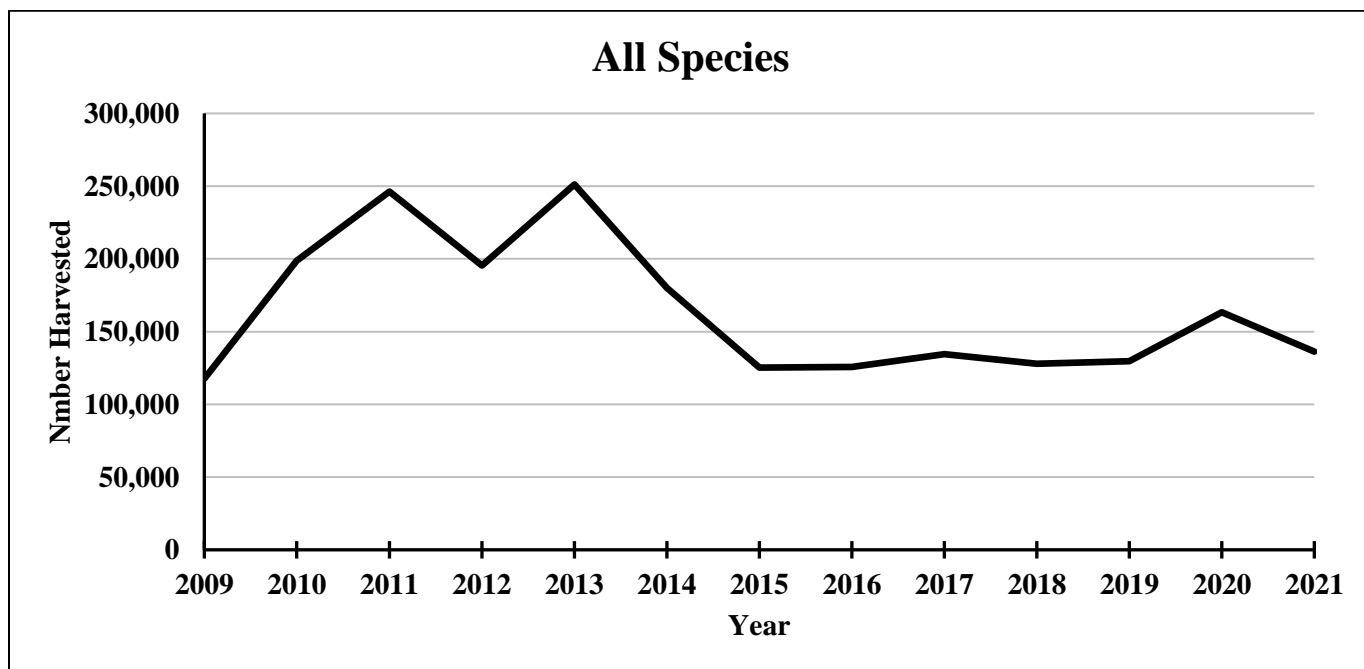


Figure 27. All species' harvest 2010 to 2021. *Years 2014 and prior do not include otter harvest and years prior to 2017 do not include bobcat.

Fur Hunting by Trappers

A total of 137 trappers, 25.8% of respondents, reported hunting furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in 2021-22 (Figure 28) and 97.7% hunted on private property (Figure 29). Almost a quarter (23.0%) of those who hunted furbearers used a dog (Figure 30). The most popular dog breeds were all hounds: Treeing Walker, Black & Tan, Mountain Cur, Bluetick and Coon hounds (Figure 31). There were an estimated 1,733 trapper license purchasers who hunted furbearers during 2021-22. Their total harvest was estimated to be 22,727 furbearers or an average of 8.7 furbearers per hunter (Table 32). Trappers harvested more raccoon and coyote than any other species. Ninety-five percent of furbearer hunters felt safe hunting in Illinois after sunset (Figure 32). Two-thirds of furbearer hunters had done so after sunset in the 2021-22 season (Figure 33). To hunt furbearer after sunset, trappers used electronic calls (53%), hand-held or gun mounted lights (48%), thermal imaging equipment (30%), night vision equipment (24%), dogs (23%), and baiting (10%). The most hunted species were coyote (66%) and raccoon (51%), followed by opossum (9% and red fox (5%).

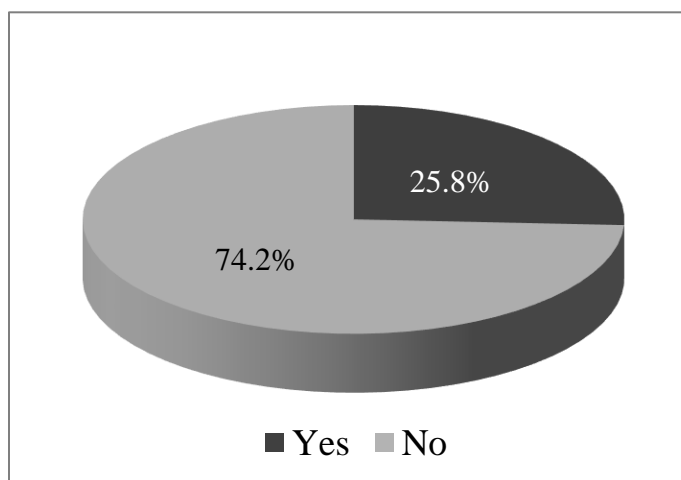


Figure 28. Trappers who hunted furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2021-22 season ($n = 532$).

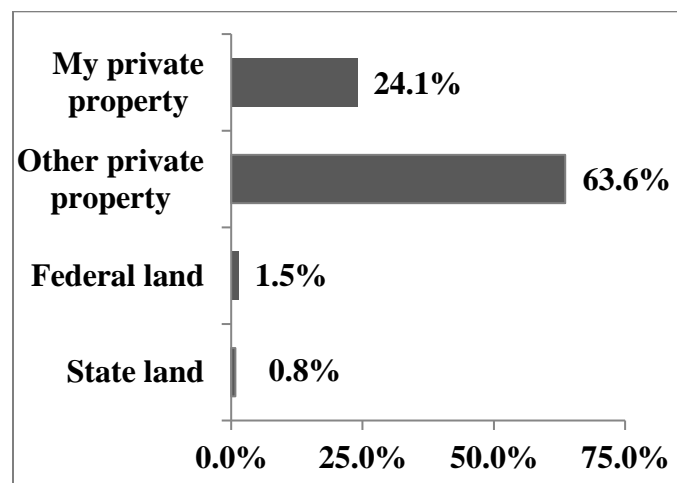


Figure 29. Type of land on which respondents most often hunted furbears ($n = 132$).

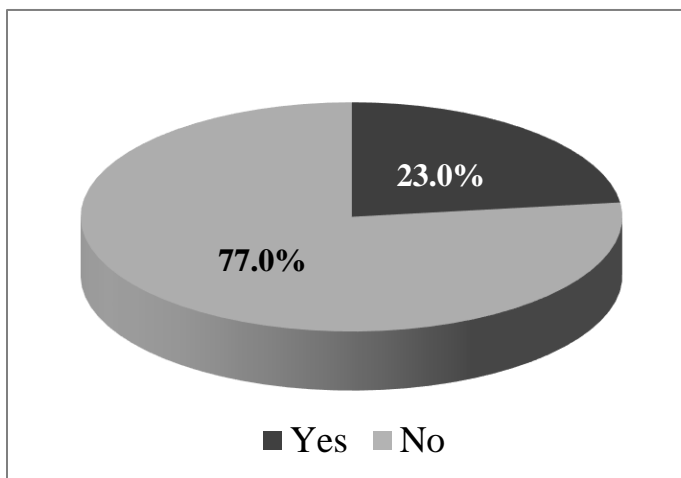


Figure 30. Percent of furbearer hunters who hunted with dogs during the 2021-22 season ($n = 135$).

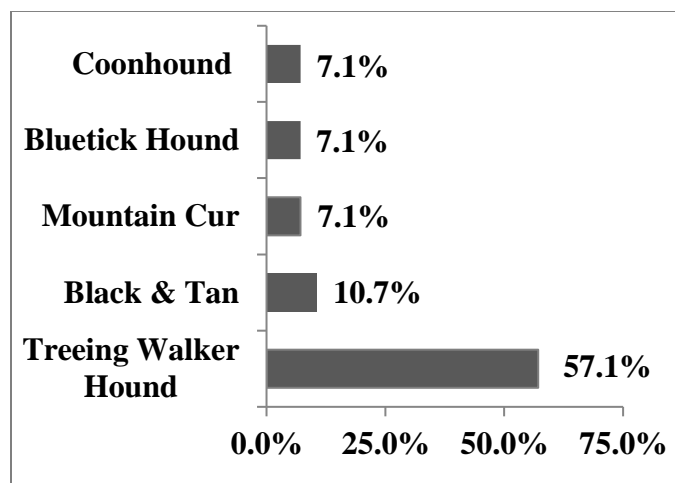


Figure 31. Breed of dogs used most often for hunting furbearers ($n = 28$).

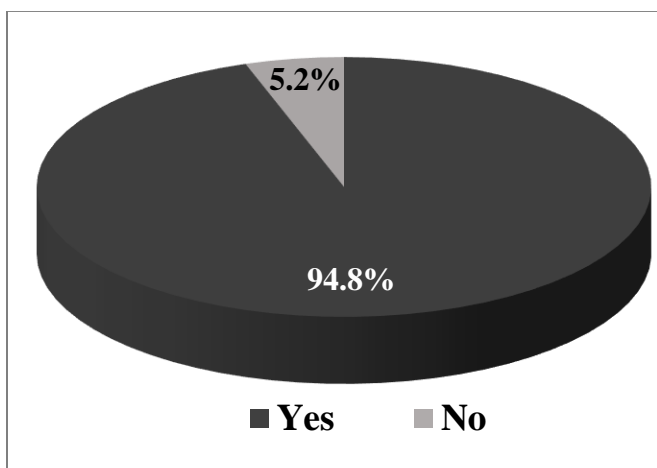


Figure 32. Percent of furbearer hunters who feel safe hunting after sunset in Illinois ($n = 134$).

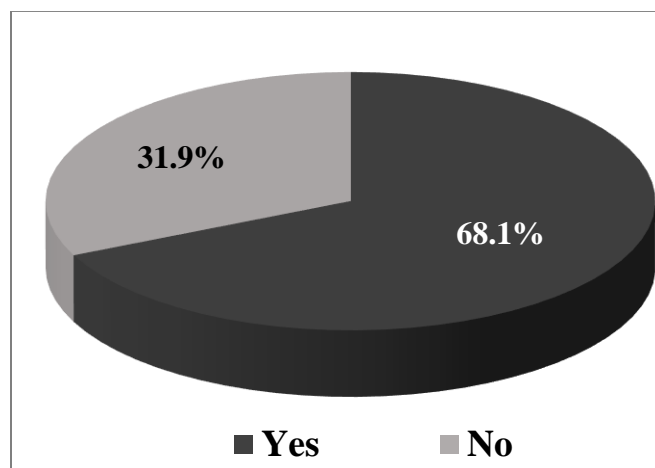


Figure 33. Percent of furbearer hunters who hunted after sunset during 2021-22 ($n = 135$).

Badger, Gray Fox, Otter, and Bobcat Sightings & Signs

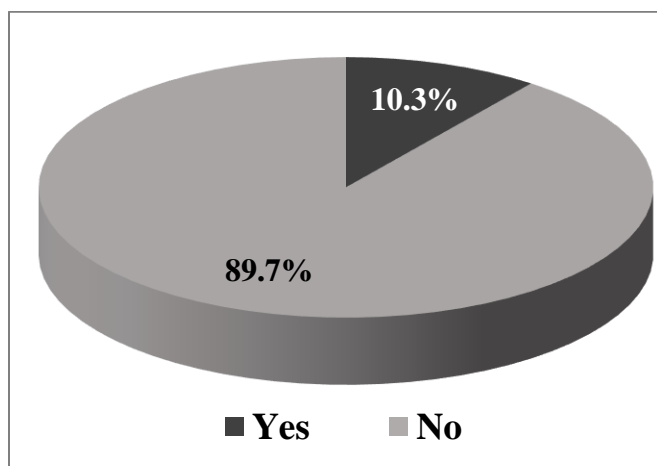


Figure 34. Trappers who sighted badgers in Illinois during 2021-22 trapping season ($n = 533$).

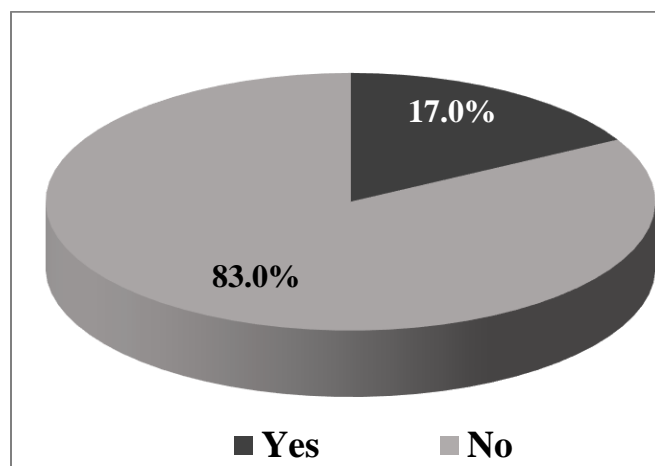


Figure 35. Trappers who sighted sign of badgers in Illinois during 2021-22 trapping season ($n = 535$).

Trappers were asked to identify if they observed any badgers or signs of badgers in Illinois during the 2020-21 trapping season. One in 10 (10.3%) license purchasers reported they sighted a badger (Figure 34), and 17.0% of trappers claimed to see signs of badgers (Figure 35). Logan, Henry, Pike, Bureau, and McLean were the counties in which sightings of badgers were reported most often. Signs of badgers were reported most often from Henry, Pike, Bureau, McLean, and Knox (Table 33). Gray fox sightings were rarer than badger sightings; ninety-three percent of trappers did not see a gray fox (Figure 36) and 1 in 20 trappers saw sign of gray fox (Figure 37). The counties where gray fox was sighted most often were Pike, Union, Hamilton, Hardin, Lake, Adams, and Cumberland (Table 34). Likewise, sightings of gray fox sign were most prevalent in those counties. Less than half of trappers reported seeing sign of otter in the areas where they trap (Figure 38). One-third of trappers felt the number of otter signs they had witnessed had increased over the past 5 years (Figure 39).

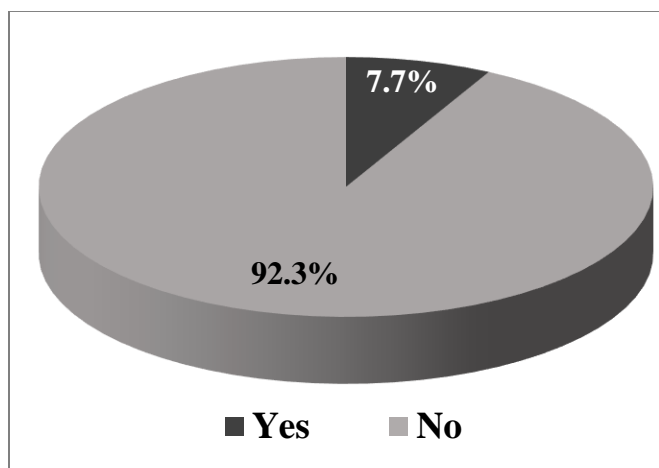


Figure 36. Trappers who sighted gray fox in Illinois during 2021-22 trapping season ($n = 534$).

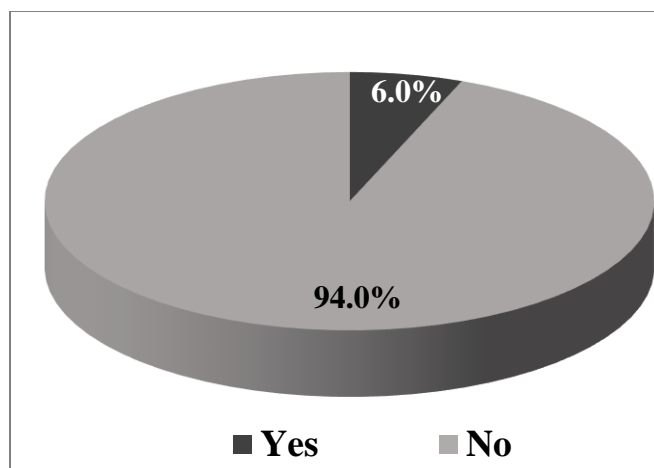


Figure 37. Trappers who sighted sign of gray fox in Illinois during 2021-22 trapping season ($n = 534$).

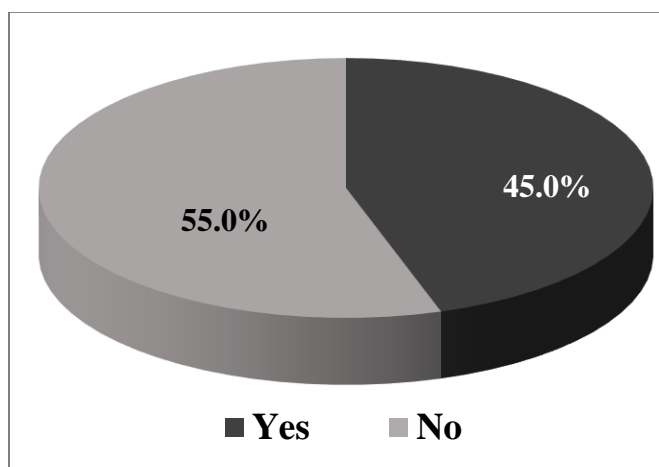


Figure 38. Trappers who sighted sign of otter during 2021-22 trapping season ($n = 533$).

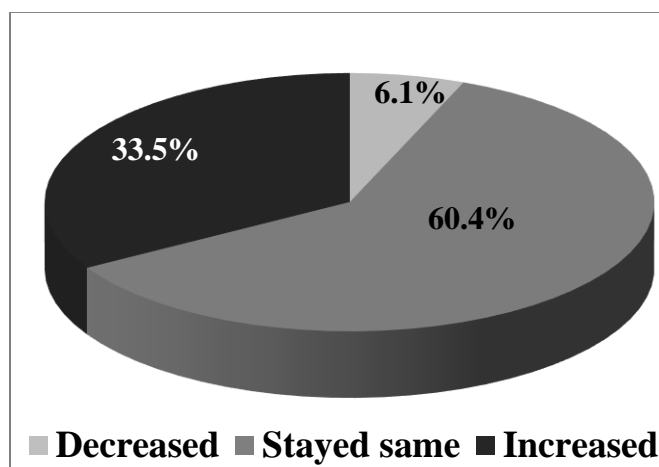


Figure 39. Trappers' opinion of the amount of otter sign witnessed over the past 5 years ($n = 534$).

One in 20 trappers (4.5%) accidentally caught a bobcat while trapping for a different species. A total of 65 bobcats were accidentally caught, a 47% decrease from the previous year. The majority (97%) of incidentally caught bobcats were released. Most trappers who incidentally caught a bobcat trapped a single bobcat during the season, however 4 trappers (17% of incidental trappers) caught 5 or more bobcats over the season. When bobcats were incidentally caught the targeted species were most often coyote (55%), raccoon (18%), and red fox (15%). Most trappers felt that within the past 5 years there had been an increase in bobcat sign (Figure 40).

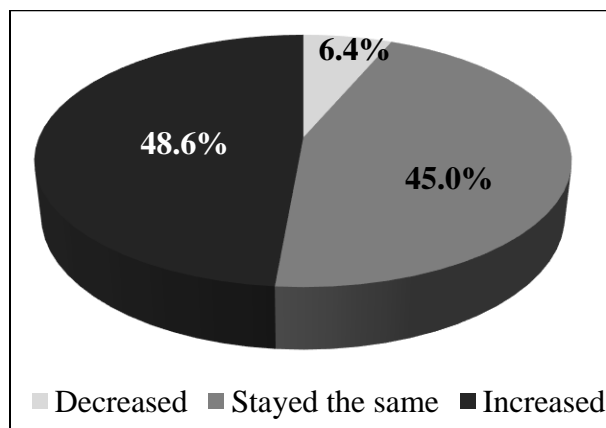


Figure 40. Change in the of amount of bobcat sign seen over the past 5 years ($n = 500$).

Trap use and ownership

When asked about the traps currently owned and used, 50.0% trappers owned conibear traps, 46.5% steel leg hold traps, 31.5% cage style live traps, 19.6% owned soft catch, and 12.3% owned snares. During the 2021-22 trapping season conibear, steel jaw leg hold, and cage type live traps were the used the most (Table 35). Dog proof traps were the most mentioned write-in type of trap, enclosed foothold, coon cuffs, and US Forest Service tubes were also included. Trappers were most likely to set 1-10 traps of any given type. Types of

traps reported owned most often followed the same trend among those who had set traps during 2021-22 (leg hold traps, conibear, and cage type) and were not broken out for a separate analysis.

General Information

During the 2021-22 season, Illinois trappers were predominantly male (Figure 41), averaged 53.4 years (± 16.3 , $n = 535$) of age and had been trapping in Illinois for an average of 23.2 years (± 20.5 , $n = 535$). The average age to start trapping was 25.1 (± 23.3 , $n = 535$) and almost half (44.5%) began trapping between 10 and 19 years old (Figure 42). Forty-seven percent of trappers (active and inactive) have ever mentored someone new to trapping (Figure 43). Twenty percent of trappers (active and inactive) know someone who does not currently trap but is interested in learning to do so (Figure 44). They knew of 187 people interested in learning to trap with an average age of 19.4 ($n = 187$). When asked about hunting license purchases, 95.7% of trappers had purchased one for the 2021-22 hunting season.

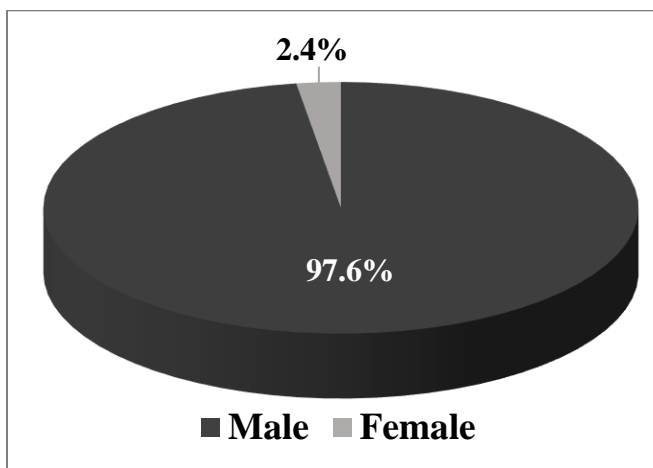


Figure 41. Gender of respondents ($n = 535$).

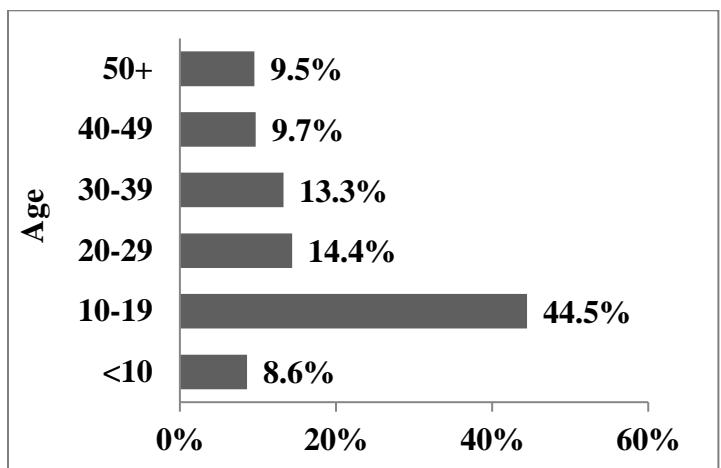


Figure 42. Age of trappers when they started trapping ($n = 535$).

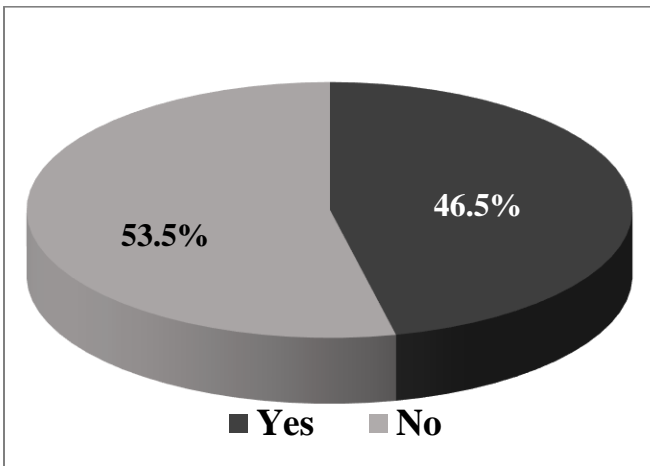


Figure 43. Percentage of respondents who have mentored a new trapper ($n = 535$).

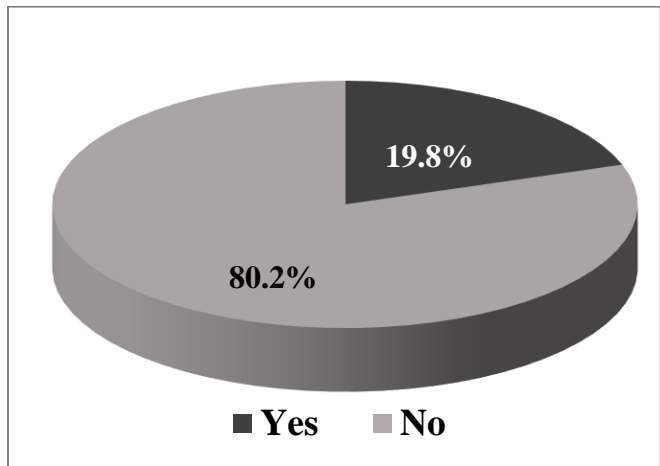


Figure 44. Percentage of respondents who know of someone who doesn't trap but is interested ($n = 535$).

Eighty-four percent of trappers ($n = 534$) indicated they had Internet access in their homes and 4 out of 5 (80.0%) with internet access had highspeed Internet. One in 4 trappers (26.9%) currently receive email announcements from IDNR, and 11.4% used to receive announcements but no longer do. Thirty percent have signed up for email announcements, and 43.2% have missed a permit deadline because they did not know it was due. Almost two thirds (60.5%) would use a website that shows the number of permits allocated by species for each IDNR site per year. Similarly, 57.8% would use a website that allows users to search the number of animals harvested by species and number of hunters for each IDNR site by year and season.

Trappers set traps most often (96.5%) on private property (Figure 45). Private property not owned by the respondent (46.9%), their own private property (39.7%), and private property owned by family (8.9%) were where trappers set traps most often. Forty-four percent of trappers had decreased their activity in the last 5 years while 38% had stayed the same. Half of trappers agreed they trapped more when prices were higher and 16% disagreed. One-third disagreed that COVID-19 had allowed them to trap more often whereas, 10% agreed. Thirty percent felt COVID-19 caused fur prices to increase and 20% disagreed. The counties which reported the greatest number of active trappers were McHenry, Pike, Randolph, and Whiteside (Table 36). The highest

densities of trapper residences were in Randolph, Cook, LaSalle, Whiteside, Winnebago, and Woodford counties (Table 37).

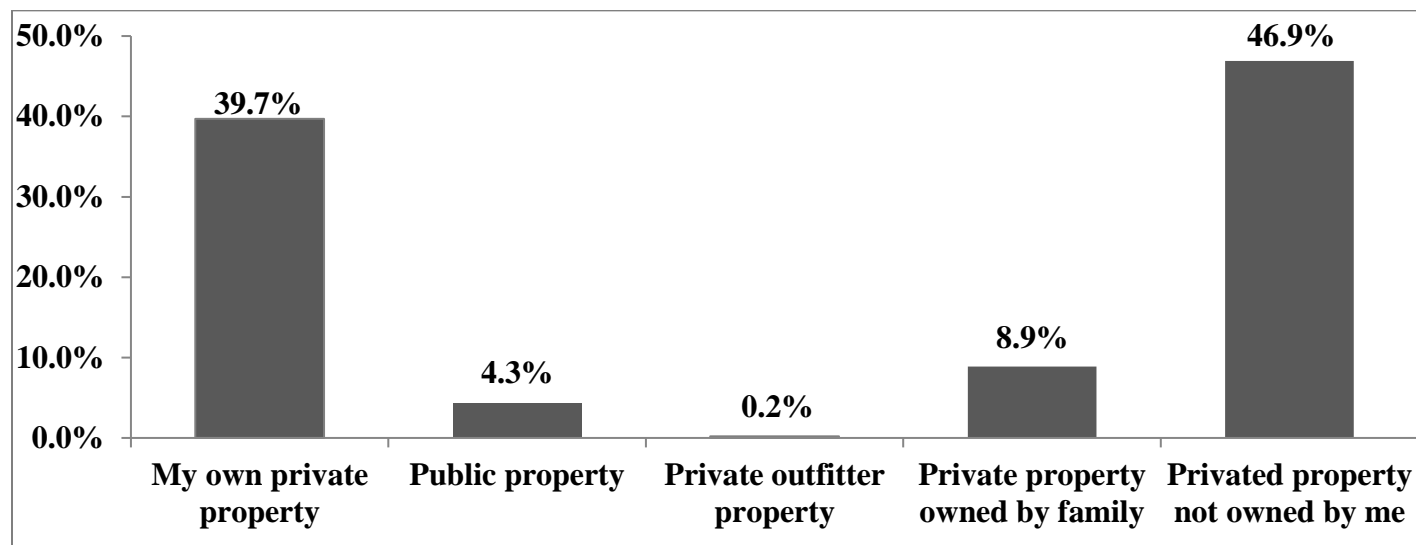


Figure 45. Description of type of land respondents set traps on most often in Illinois ($n = 531$).

REFERENCES

Anderson, W.L., and L.K. Campbell. 1992. Fur hunter/trapper survey, 1990-91. Illinois Department of Conservation, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Projects W-99-R-3 and W-112-R-1, Study 1, Job 2, Job Completion Report, 71 pp.

Table 1. Participation and harvest by fur trappers in Illinois, 2021-22 season ($n = 535$).

Species	Number of Reported Successful Trappers	% (Total Respondents)	Reported Harvest by Successful Trappers
Muskrat	102	19.1	1,707
Mink	38	7.1	104
Otter	56	10.5	136
Raccoon	220	41.1	5,131
Opossum	115	21.5	1,144
Red fox	27	5.0	69
Gray fox	1	0.2	2
Beaver	122	22.8	1,042
Striped skunk	76	14.2	298
Weasel	1	0.2	1
Coyote	107	20.0	737
Badger	5	0.9	6
Bobcat	16	3.0	16

Table 2. Distribution of reported furbearer harvest among successful trappers in Illinois based on responses to the 2021-22 Illinois Trapper Survey.

Total Season Catch	Percentage of Trappers												
	Muskrat (n=102)	Mink (n=38)	Otter (n=56)	Raccoon (n=220)	Opossum (n=115)	Red Fox (n=27)	Gray Fox (n=1)	Beaver (n=122)	Striped Skunk (n=76)	Weasel (n=1)	Coyote (n=107)	Badger (n=5)	Bobcat (n=16)
1-5	44.1%	84.2%	96.4%	30.0%	46.1%	92.6%	100.0%	54.9%	84.2%	100.0%	66.4%	100.0%	100.0%
6-10	17.6%	13.2%	3.6%	24.5%	25.2%	0.0%	0.0%	23.8%	9.2%	0.0%	13.1%	0.0%	0.0%
11-15	16.7%	2.6%	0.0%	9.1%	13.0%	7.4%	0.0%	4.9%	1.3%	0.0%	11.2%	0.0%	0.0%
16-20	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	4.9%	3.9%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
21-25	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.1%	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%	4.1%	1.3%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
>25	15.7%	0.0%	0.0%	24.5%	7.8%	0.0%	0.0%	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 3. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of resident trappers in Illinois, 2021-22 ($n = 535$), along with confidence intervals (95%) for estimated number of trappers, average season harvest, and total trapper harvest.

Species	Estimated Number of Trappers	Percent of Licensed Trappers	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Percent Sold	Estimated Total Sold
Muskrat	1,338 \pm 238	19.1%	16.74 \pm 6.08	22,386 \pm 10,943	57.1%	12,786
Mink	498 \pm 156	7.1%	2.74 \pm 0.85	1,364 \pm 720	51.0%	695
Otter	734 \pm 186	10.5%	2.43 \pm 0.46	1,784 \pm 668	27.9%	498
Raccoon	2,885 \pm 299	41.1%	23.32 \pm 5.13	67,288 \pm 19,222	35.8%	24,077
Opossum	1,508 \pm 249	21.5%	9.95 \pm 2.12	15,002 \pm 4,775	6.2%	931
Red fox	354 \pm 133	5.0%	2.56 \pm 0.99	905 \pm 587	10.1%	92
Gray fox	13 \pm 26	0.2%	2.00 \pm 0.00	26 \pm 64	0.0%	-
Beaver	1,600 \pm 255	22.8%	8.54 \pm 1.89	13,665 \pm 4,406	40.0%	5,469
Striped Skunk	997 \pm 212	14.2%	3.92 \pm 0.98	3,908 \pm 1,525	16.1%	629
Weasel	13 \pm 26	0.2%	1.00 \pm 0.00	13 \pm 32	0.0%	-
Coyote	1,403 \pm 243	20.0%	6.89 \pm 1.71	9,665 \pm 3,477	30.0%	2,898
Badger	66 \pm 58	0.9%	1.20 \pm 0.39	79 \pm 89	66.7%	52
Bobcat	210 \pm 103	3.0%	1.00 \pm 0.00	210 \pm 124	0.0%	-

Table 4. Summary of 2021 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 102$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	144	10.8	1.5	42.4	6,111	65.0
Northeast Moraine	79	5.9	1.0	8.5	669	8.1
Mississippi Border-North	66	4.9	0.8	9.2	603	7.7
Mississippi Border-South	170	12.7	1.2	15.2	2,597	19.0
Western Prairie/Forest	144	10.8	1.0	17.0	2,452	17.0
Central Sand Prairie	13	1.0	0.3	12.0	157	3.8
Grand Prairie	341	25.5	0.6	8.2	2,780	5.3
Southern Plain	341	25.5	1.4	18.8	6,426	27.1
Wabash Border	26	2.0	0.4	19.5	511	7.6
Shawnee Hills	13	1.0	0.3	6.0	79	1.5
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1,338	100.0	0.9	16.7	22,386	15.3

Table 5. Summary of 2021 MINK trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 38$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	39	7.9	0.4	5.7	223	2.4
Northeast Moraine	13	2.6	0.2	1.0	13	0.2
Mississippi Border-North	26	5.3	0.3	2.5	66	0.8
Mississippi Border-South	79	15.8	0.6	3.5	275	2.0
Western Prairie/Forest	52	10.5	0.4	1.8	92	0.6
Central Sand Prairie	13	2.6	0.3	1.0	13	0.3
Grand Prairie	144	28.9	0.3	1.7	249	0.5
Southern Plain	118	23.7	0.5	3.4	407	1.7
Wabash Border	13	2.6	0.2	2.0	26	0.4
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	498	100.0	0.3	2.7	1,364	0.9

Table 6. Summary of 2021 OTTER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 56$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	52	1.8	0.6	2.8	144	1.5
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	52	1.8	0.7	3.5	184	2.3
Mississippi Border-South	105	3.6	0.8	1.6	170	1.2
Western Prairie/Forest	118	4.1	0.8	2.2	262	1.8
Central Sand Prairie	13	0.5	0.3	4.0	52	1.3
Grand Prairie	170	5.9	0.3	1.3	223	0.4
Southern Plain	170	5.9	0.7	3.2	551	2.3
Wabash Border	39	1.4	0.6	4.0	157	2.3
Shawnee Hills	13	0.5	0.3	3.0	39	0.8
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	734	25.5	0.5	2.4	1,784	1.2

Table 7. Summary of 2021 RACCOON trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 220$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	236	8.2	2.5	28.7	6,780	72.1
Northeast Moraine	92	3.2	1.1	3.9	354	4.3
Mississippi Border-North	144	5.0	1.8	18.5	2,662	33.9
Mississippi Border-South	459	15.9	3.4	28.1	12,891	94.3
Western Prairie/Forest	341	11.8	2.4	49.2	16,760	116.2
Central Sand Prairie	79	2.7	1.9	12.2	957	23.1
Grand Prairie	839	29.1	1.6	13.4	11,239	21.4
Southern Plain	551	19.1	2.3	25.4	13,993	59.0
Wabash Border	105	3.6	1.6	12.6	1,325	19.6
Shawnee Hills	39	1.4	0.8	8.3	328	6.3
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	2,885	100.0	2.0	23.3	67,288	46.1

Table 8. Summary of 2021 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 115$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	79	5.2	0.8	5.2	407	4.3
Northeast Moraine	39	2.6	0.5	3.0	118	1.4
Mississippi Border-North	66	4.3	0.8	4.8	315	4.0
Mississippi Border-South	249	16.5	1.8	14.4	3,580	26.2
Western Prairie/Forest	223	14.8	1.5	10.1	2,242	15.6
Central Sand Prairie	39	2.6	0.9	13.0	511	12.3
Grand Prairie	472	31.3	0.9	7.3	3,436	6.5
Southern Plain	275	18.3	1.2	13.3	3,659	15.4
Wabash Border	39	2.6	0.6	15.0	590	8.8
Shawnee Hills	26	1.7	0.5	5.5	144	2.8
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1,508	100.0	1.0	9.9	15,002	10.3

Table 9. Summary of 2021 RED FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 27$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	39	11.1	0.4	1.7	66	0.7
Northeast Moraine	13	3.7	0.2	2.0	26	0.3
Mississippi Border-North	26	7.4	0.3	1.0	26	0.3
Mississippi Border-South	52	14.8	0.4	6.8	354	2.6
Western Prairie/Forest	26	7.4	0.2	2.5	66	0.5
Central Sand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	66	18.5	0.1	1.8	118	0.2
Southern Plain	92	25.9	0.4	2.3	210	0.9
Wabash Border	39	11.1	0.6	1.0	39	0.6
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	354	100.0	0.2	2.6	905	0.6

Table 10. Summary of 2021 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 1$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Mississippi Border-North	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Mississippi Border-South	13	100.0	0.1	2.0	26	0.2
Western Prairie/Forest	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Central Sand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Grand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Southern Plain	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0
Wabash Border	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	13	100.0	0.0	2.0	26	0.0

Table 11. Summary of 2021 BEAVER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 122$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	170	10.7	1.8	14.1	2,400	25.5
Northeast Moraine	52	3.3	0.6	7.5	393	4.8
Mississippi Border-North	66	4.1	0.8	3.6	236	3.0
Mississippi Border-South	184	11.5	1.3	7.6	1,390	10.2
Western Prairie/Forest	184	11.5	1.3	6.7	1,233	8.5
Central Sand Prairie	52	3.3	1.3	4.3	223	5.4
Grand Prairie	485	30.3	0.9	6.6	3,200	6.1
Southern Plain	289	18.0	1.2	12.1	3,501	14.8
Wabash Border	66	4.1	1.0	14.2	931	13.8
Shawnee Hills	52	3.3	1.0	3.0	157	3.0
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1,600	100.0	1.1	8.5	13,665	9.4

Table 12. Summary of 2021 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 76$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	66	6.6	0.7	7.6	498	5.3
Northeast Moraine	26	2.6	0.3	9.5	249	3.0
Mississippi Border-North	13	1.3	0.2	1.0	13	0.2
Mississippi Border-South	170	17.1	1.2	4.2	721	5.3
Western Prairie/Forest	144	14.5	1.0	2.7	393	2.7
Central Sand Prairie	26	2.6	0.6	5.5	144	3.5
Grand Prairie	341	34.2	0.6	3.3	1,128	2.1
Southern Plain	170	17.1	0.7	3.9	669	2.8
Wabash Border	26	2.6	0.4	2.5	66	1.0
Shawnee Hills	13	1.3	0.3	2.0	26	0.5
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	997	100.0	0.7	3.9	3,908	2.7

Table 13. Summary of 2021 WEASEL trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 1$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Mississippi Border-North	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Mississippi Border-South	13	100.0	0.1	1.0	13	0.1
Western Prairie/Forest	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Central Sand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Grand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Southern Plain	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Wabash Border	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	13	100.0	0.0	1.0	13	0.0

Table 14. Summary of 2021 COYOTE trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 107$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	118	8.4	1.3	2.6	302	3.2
Northeast Moraine	39	2.8	0.5	1.3	52	0.6
Mississippi Border-North	39	2.8	0.5	14.0	551	7.0
Mississippi Border-South	144	10.3	1.1	11.2	1,613	11.8
Western Prairie/Forest	236	16.8	1.6	4.7	1,102	7.6
Central Sand Prairie	52	3.7	1.3	7.3	380	9.2
Grand Prairie	459	32.7	0.9	6.4	2,938	5.6
Southern Plain	249	17.8	1.1	9.2	2,282	9.6
Wabash Border	39	2.8	0.6	6.0	236	3.5
Shawnee Hills	26	1.9	0.5	8.0	210	4.0
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1,403	100.0	1.0	6.9	9,665	6.6

Table 15. Summary of 2021 BADGER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 5$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	13	20.0	0.1	1.0	13	0.1
Western Prairie/Forest	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	52	80.0	0.1	1.3	66	0.1
Southern Plain	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	66	100.0	0.0	1.2	79	0.1

Table 16. Summary of 2021 BOBCAT trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 16$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	26	40.0	0.3	1.0	26	0.3
Mississippi Border-South	39	60.0	0.3	1.0	39	0.3
Western Prairie/Forest	66	100.0	0.5	1.0	66	0.5
Central Sand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	39	60.0	0.1	1.0	39	0.1
Southern Plain	26	40.0	0.1	1.0	26	0.1
Wabash Border	13	20.0	0.2	1.0	13	0.2
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	210	320.0	0.1	1.0	210	0.1

Table 17. Summary of 2021 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 102$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	721	53.9	0.9	17.1	12,367	55.2	15.1
South	616	46.1	1.0	16.3	10,019	44.8	15.6
Statewide	1,338	100.0	0.9	16.7	22,386	100.0	15.3

Table 18. Summary of 2021 MINK trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 38$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	275	55.3	0.3	2.3	629	46.2	0.8
South	223	44.7	0.3	3.3	734	53.8	1.1
Statewide	498	100.0	0.3	2.7	1,364	100.0	0.9

Table 19. Summary of 2021 OTTER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 56$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	341	11.8	0.4	2.2	761	1.1	0.9
South	393	13.6	0.6	2.6	1,023	1.5	1.6
Statewide	734	25.5	0.5	2.4	1,784	2.7	1.2

Table 20. Summary of 2021 RACCOON trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 220$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	1,534	53.2	1.9	22.4	34,293	51.0	41.9
South	1,351	46.8	2.1	24.4	32,995	49.0	51.4
Statewide	2,885	100.0	2.0	23.3	67,288	100.0	46.1

Table 21. Summary of 2021 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 115$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	787	52.2	1.0	8.0	6,308	42.0	7.7
South	721	47.8	1.1	12.1	8,695	58.0	13.5
Statewide	1,508	100.0	1.0	9.9	15,002	100.0	10.3

Table 22. Summary of 2021 RED FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 27$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	118	33.3	0.1	1.6	184	20.3	0.2
South	236	66.7	0.4	3.1	721	79.7	1.1
Statewide	354	100.0	0.2	2.6	905	100.0	0.6

Table 23. Summary of 2021 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 1$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0
South	13	100.0	0.0	2.0	26	100.0	0.0
Statewide	13	100.0	0.0	2.0	26	100.0	0.0

Table 24. Summary of 2021 BEAVER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 122$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	931	58.2	1.1	7.9	7,318	53.6	8.9
South	669	41.8	1.0	9.5	6,347	46.4	9.9
Statewide	1,600	100.0	1.1	8.5	13,665	100.0	9.4

Table 25. Summary of 2021 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 76$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	525	52.6	0.6	4.2	2,216	56.7	2.7
South	472	47.4	0.7	3.6	1,692	43.3	2.6
Statewide	997	100.0	0.7	3.9	3,908	100.0	2.7

Table 26. Summary of 2021 WEASEL trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 1$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0
South	13	100.0	0.0	1.0	13	100.0	0.0
Statewide	13	100.0	0.0	1.0	13	100.0	0.0

Table 27. Summary of 2021 COYOTE trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 107$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	839	59.8	1.0	5.5	4,629	47.9	5.7
South	564	40.2	0.9	8.9	5,036	52.1	7.8
Statewide	1403	100.0	1.0	6.9	9,665	100.0	6.6

Table 28. Summary of 2021 BADGER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 5$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	52	80.0	0.1	1.3	66	83.3	0.1
South	13	20.0	0.0	1.0	13	16.7	0.0
Statewide	66	100.0	0.0	1.2	79	100.0	0.1

Table 29. Summary of 2021 BOBCAT trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 16$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	92	43.8	0.1	1.0	92	43.8	0.1
South	118	56.3	0.2	1.0	118	56.3	0.2
Statewide	210	100.0	0.1	1.0	210	100.0	0.1

Table 30. The number of pelts sold by successful trappers (i.e., caught ≥ 1 animal) for 13 species of furbearers in Illinois, 2021-22 season ($n = 535$).

Species	Number of Pelts Sold	Pelts Sold in Illinois		Pelts Sold Outside Illinois		% of harvested pelts sold	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	This year	Last year
Muskrat	12,786	9,652	75.5	3,134	24.5	57%	80%
Mink	695	577	83.0	118	17.0	51%	63%
Otter	498	262	52.6	236	47.4	28%	64%
Raccoon	24,077	18,281	75.9	5,796	24.1	36%	63%
Opossum	931	643	69.0	289	31.0	6%	36%
Red fox	92	39	42.9	52	57.1	10%	56%
Gray fox	-	-	-	-	-	0%	91%
Beaver	5,469	4,092	74.8	1,377	25.2	40%	58%
Striped skunk	629	525	83.3	105	16.7	16%	18%
Weasel	-	-	-	-	-	0%	32%
Coyote	2,898	1,757	60.6	1,141	39.4	30%	65%
Badger	52	39	75.0	13	25.0	66%	20%
Bobcat	-	-	-	-	-	0%	4%
Total	48,128	35,867	74.5	12,262	25.5	35%	63%

Table 31. Estimated statewide harvest by resident Illinois trappers, 2007-2021.

Season	Muskrat	Mink	Otter	Raccoon	Opossum	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Beaver	Striped Skunk	Weasel	Coyote	Badger	Bobcat	All Species
2007	35,461	3,563	-	88,784	27,011	1,316	191	9,394	6,558	53	9,216	84		181,631
2008	32,480	2,764	-	77,310	22,839	783	86	9,997	4,745	22	4,405	65		155,496
2009	31,942	1,792	-	52,431	14,203	1,001	71	7,697	3,784	29	4,585	62		117,597
2010	63,257	4,574	-	88,233	20,213	848	39	11,238	3,981	33	6,193	44		198,653
2011	37,068	3,828	-	149,449	27,983	1,294	135	13,397	6,214	55	6,766	98		246,286
2012	33,906	2,678	-	104,947	23,264	1,412	69	12,898	5,140	26	10,874	146		195,360
2013	32,467	3,005	-	151,367	34,208	1,624	85	9,874	5,022	53	13,314	159		251,178
2014	33,860	2,895	-	101,035	17,152	1,739	89	7,249	4,621	76	11,096	165		179,978
2015	32,038	1,641	1,198	55,390	12,829	932	0	10,514	3,123	35	7,488	124		125,314
2016	24,217	1,982	1,388	57,324	14,695	948	20	10,050	2,349	47	12,532	53		125,605
2017	18,795	1,969	1,627	64,025	16,753	862	16	11,179	2,539	41	16,525	81	146	134,560
2018	16,079	1,502	1,493	63,179	17,815	894	35	10,358	4,141	96	11,781	156	460	127,990
2019	16,111	1,097	2,427	67,915	16,255	737	36	10,357	4,109	0	10,258	54	333	129,689
2020	31,703	1,875	2,202	72,836	15,202	1,186	112	18,489	3,241	33	16,060	56	293	163,292
2021	22,386	1,364	1,784	67,288	15,002	905	26	13,665	3,908	13	9,665	79	210	136,294

Table 32. Summary of fur hunting activities reported by trappers^a in Illinois, 2021-22.

Species	Number of Trappers Hunting	Mean # of Days Hunted	Mean # of Species Observed	Total Reported Harvest by Hunting	Average Reported Harvest Per Hunter	% of Trappers Hunting Each Species	Estimated Total Harvest By Hunting	Counties hunted most often
Raccoon	65	11.6	21.5	1,194	18.4	12.1%	15,658	Adams, Clinton, Cumberland
Opossum	13	6.1	7.0	50	3.8	2.4%	656	Pike, Adams, Bureau
Red fox	6	9.3	2.3	3	0.5	1.1%	39	Christian, Macon, Randolph
Gray fox	4	10.5	0.5	1	0.3	0.7%	13	Macoupin, Randolph, Vermillion
Bobcat	4	7.0	1.3	2	0.5	0.7%	26	Adams, Carroll, Macoupin
Woodchuck	5	7.0	9.8	35	7.0	0.9%	459	Randolph, Christian, Stephenson
Coyote	98	10.0	12.7	432	4.4	18.3%	5,665	Pike, Macoupin, Randolph
Skunk	4	3.2	6.3	16	4.0	0.7%	210	Randolph, Sangamon, Scott
All species	199	10.0	14.3	1,733	8.7	37.2%	22,727	

^a Active and inactive trappers.

^b Successful and unsuccessful hunters.

^c Total for hunters of all species may be less than the sum of values because some trappers hunted >1 species.

Table 33. Number of trappers who saw badgers or signs of badgers by the county in Illinois.

County	Saw Badger <i>n</i>	Saw Sign <i>n</i>	County	Saw Badger <i>n</i>	Saw Sign <i>n</i>	County	Saw Badger <i>n</i>	Saw Sign <i>n</i>
Adams	2	2	Hardin	0	0	Morgan	0	1
Alexander	0	0	Henderson	0	1	Moultrie	1	0
Bond	0	0	Henry	4	6	Ogle	3	4
Boone	0	2	Iroquois	0	2	Peoria	2	2
Brown	1	1	Jackson	0	0	Perry	0	0
Bureau	3	6	Jasper	0	0	Piatt	1	1
Calhoun	1	0	Jefferson	0	1	Pike	4	6
Carroll	0	1	Jersey	0	0	Pope	0	0
Cass	1	1	Jo Daviess	2	2	Pulaski	0	0
Champaign	2	2	Johnson	1	1	Putnam	0	0
Christian	0	0	Kane	0	0	Randolph	1	1
Clark	0	0	Kankakee	0	0	Richland	0	0
Clay	0	0	Kendall	0	0	Rock Island	0	0
Clinton	0	0	Knox	1	5	St. Clair	0	0
Coles	0	1	Lake	0	1	Saline	1	1
Cook	0	0	LaSalle	2	3	Sangamon	0	0
Crawford	0	0	Lawrence	0	0	Schuyler	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	Lee	1	1	Scott	0	0
DeKalb	0	0	Livingston	0	0	Shelby	2	1
DeWitt	0	0	Logan	5	4	Stark	2	3
Douglas	0	0	McDonough	0	1	Stephenson	1	1
DuPage	0	0	McHenry	1	1	Tazewell	1	1
Edgar	1	1	McLean	3	5	Union	1	1
Edwards	0	1	Macon	1	2	Vermilion	1	1
Effingham	0	0	Macoupin	0	0	Wabash	0	0
Fayette	2	1	Madison	0	0	Warren	1	3
Ford	0	1	Marion	0	0	Washington	0	1
Franklin	1	1	Marshall	1	3	Wayne	0	0
Fulton	1	2	Mason	2	3	White	0	0
Gallatin	0	0	Massac	0	0	Whiteside	0	2
Greene	0	1	Menard	3	3	Will	0	1
Grundy	0	0	Mercer	0	0	Williamson	1	1
Hamilton	0	0	Monroe	0	0	Winnebago	1	0
Hancock	1	2	Montgomery	1	1	Woodford	0	3

Table 34. Number of trappers who saw gray fox or signs of gray fox by the county in Illinois.

County	Saw		County	Saw		County	Saw	
	Gray Fox	Saw Sign		Gray Fox	Saw Sign		Gray Fox	Saw Sign
	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>		<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>		<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>
Adams	2	1	Hardin	2	2	Morgan	0	0
Alexander	0	0	Henderson	0	0	Moultrie	1	1
Bond	0	1	Henry	0	0	Ogle	0	0
Boone	0	1	Iroquois	0	0	Peoria	0	0
Brown	0	1	Jackson	2	0	Perry	0	0
Bureau	0	1	Jasper	0	0	Piatt	0	0
Calhoun	1	0	Jefferson	1	1	Pike	3	2
Carroll	0	0	Jersey	0	0	Pope	0	0
Cass	0	0	Jo Daviess	0	0	Pulaski	0	0
Champaign	0	0	Johnson	0	0	Putnam	0	0
Christian	1	1	Kane	0	0	Randolph	2	1
Clark	0	0	Kankakee	0	0	Richland	0	0
Clay	1	0	Kendall	0	0	Rock Island	0	0
Clinton	1	1	Knox	0	0	St. Clair	0	0
Coles	0	0	Lake	2	2	Saline	0	0
Cook	0	0	LaSalle	1	2	Sangamon	0	0
Crawford	1	1	Lawrence	1	1	Schuyler	0	0
Cumberland	2	1	Lee	0	0	Scott	1	0
DeKalb	0	0	Livingston	0	0	Shelby	0	0
DeWitt	0	0	Logan	1	1	Stark	0	0
Douglas	0	0	McDonough	0	0	Stephenson	0	0
DuPage	0	0	McHenry	1	0	Tazewell	0	0
Edgar	0	0	McLean	0	0	Union	3	1
Edwards	0	0	Macon	1	0	Vermilion	2	0
Effingham	0	1	Macoupin	1	0	Wabash	0	0
Fayette	0	0	Madison	0	0	Warren	0	0
Ford	0	0	Marion	0	0	Washington	0	0
Franklin	0	0	Marshall	0	1	Wayne	1	1
Fulton	0	0	Mason	0	0	White	2	1
Gallatin	0	0	Massac	0	0	Whiteside	0	0
Greene	1	1	Menard	2	1	Will	0	0
Grundy	1	1	Mercer	0	0	Williamson	1	0
Hamilton	2	2	Monroe	1	1	Winnebago	0	0
Hancock	0	0	Montgomery	1	1	Woodford	1	1

Table 35. Types of traps owned and used by Illinois trappers.

# of traps	Conibear traps (n = 265)		Steel jaw leg hold traps (n = 247)		Soft catch/padded leg (n = 51)		Cage type live traps (n = 162)		Snares (n = 32)		Other (n = 76)	
	Owned %	Set %	Owned %	Set %	Owned %	Set %	Owned %	Set %	Owned %	Set %	Owned %	Set %
0	-	27.5	-	29.4	-	46.3	-	46.3	-	66.7	-	10.5
1-10	40.8	52.1	27.5	43.1	62.7	42.6	87.0	50.0	25.0	30.3	73.7	34.2
11-20	17.0	14.0	16.6	19.0	23.5	7.4	9.9	2.5	28.1	-	7.9	18.4
21-30	11.7	3.8	14.6	5.6	5.9	1.9	1.9	1.2	31.3	-	7.9	15.8
31-40	6.0	1.5	6.9	0.4	3.9	-	0.6	-	9.4	-	6.6	5.3
41-50	6.4	0.4	9.7	1.6	3.9	1.9	-	-	-	-	2.6	3.9
51-100	12.8	0.8	15.0	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	7.9
>100	5.3	-	9.7	0.4	-	-	0.6	-	6.3	-	1.3	3.9

Table 36. Distribution of active trappers by county trapped most in Illinois based on responses to the 2021-22 Illinois Trapper Survey ($n = 312$).

County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>
Adams	5	Hardin	0	Morgan	3
Alexander	1	Henderson	1	Moultrie	1
Bond	4	Henry	5	Ogle	5
Boone	1	Iroquois	2	Peoria	5
Brown	9	Jackson	4	Perry	2
Bureau	7	Jasper	3	Piatt	1
Calhoun	0	Jefferson	4	Pike	10
Carroll	4	Jersey	-	Pope	0
Cass	2	Jo Daviess	3	Pulaski	1
Champaign	2	Johnson	1	Putnam	0
Christian	3	Kane	1	Randolph	8
Clark	1	Kankakee	0	Richland	3
Clay	6	Kendall	0	Rock Island	3
Clinton	5	Knox	6	St. Clair	7
Coles	2	Lake	4	Saline	2
Cook	2	LaSalle	10	Sangamon	4
Crawford	7	Lawrence	1	Schuyler	3
Cumberland	4	Lee	1	Scott	1
De Kalb	0	Livingston	2	Shelby	3
DeWitt	1	Logan	5	Stark	2
Douglas	0	McDonough	0	Stephenson	2
Du Page	0	McHenry	2	Tazewell	2
Edgar	2	McLean	11	Union	2
Edwards	2	Macon	2	Vermillion	1
Effingham	3	Macoupin	3	Wabash	1
Fayette	3	Madison	5	Warren	4
Ford	1	Marion	4	Washington	3
Franklin	4	Marshall	4	Wayne	2
Fulton	7	Mason	4	White	0
Gallatin	1	Massac	0	Whiteside	6
Greene	6	Menard	5	Will	5
Grundy	3	Mercer	4	Williamson	2
Hamilton	3	Monroe	5	Winnebago	3
Hancock	3	Montgomery	3	Woodford	4

Table 37. Distribution of respondents by county of residence ($n = 532$).

County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>
Adams	10	Hardin	1	Morgan	6
Alexander	1	Henderson	1	Moultrie	5
Bond	4	Henry	6	Ogle	7
Boone	1	Iroquois	7	Peoria	8
Brown	8	Jackson	4	Perry	2
Bureau	10	Jasper	2	Piatt	1
Calhoun	1	Jefferson	13	Pike	13
Carroll	5	Jersey	-	Pope	0
Cass	3	Jo Daviess	7	Pulaski	2
Champaign	4	Johnson	2	Putnam	1
Christian	7	Kane	2	Randolph	9
Clark	2	Kankakee	0	Richland	8
Clay	6	Kendall	0	Rock Island	6
Clinton	12	Knox	9	St. Clair	13
Coles	1	Lake	5	Saline	4
Cook	8	LaSalle	15	Sangamon	10
Crawford	9	Lawrence	1	Schuyler	2
Cumberland	6	Lee	2	Scott	1
De Kalb	4	Livingston	5	Shelby	10
DeWitt	1	Logan	8	Stark	2
Douglas	3	McDonough	2	Stephenson	5
Du Page	5	McHenry	4	Tazewell	7
Edgar	3	McLean	15	Union	6
Edwards	2	Macon	5	Vermillion	2
Effingham	7	Macoupin	5	Wabash	2
Fayette	6	Madison	11	Warren	5
Ford	1	Marion	6	Washington	2
Franklin	4	Marshall	3	Wayne	3
Fulton	10	Mason	6	White	5
Gallatin	1	Massac	1	Whiteside	12
Greene	6	Menard	5	Will	16
Grundy	6	Mercer	5	Williamson	6
Hamilton	3	Monroe	9	Winnebago	7
Hancock	2	Montgomery	4	Woodford	7

Illinois Trapper Survey: 2021-22 Season



Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
&
Illinois Natural History Survey

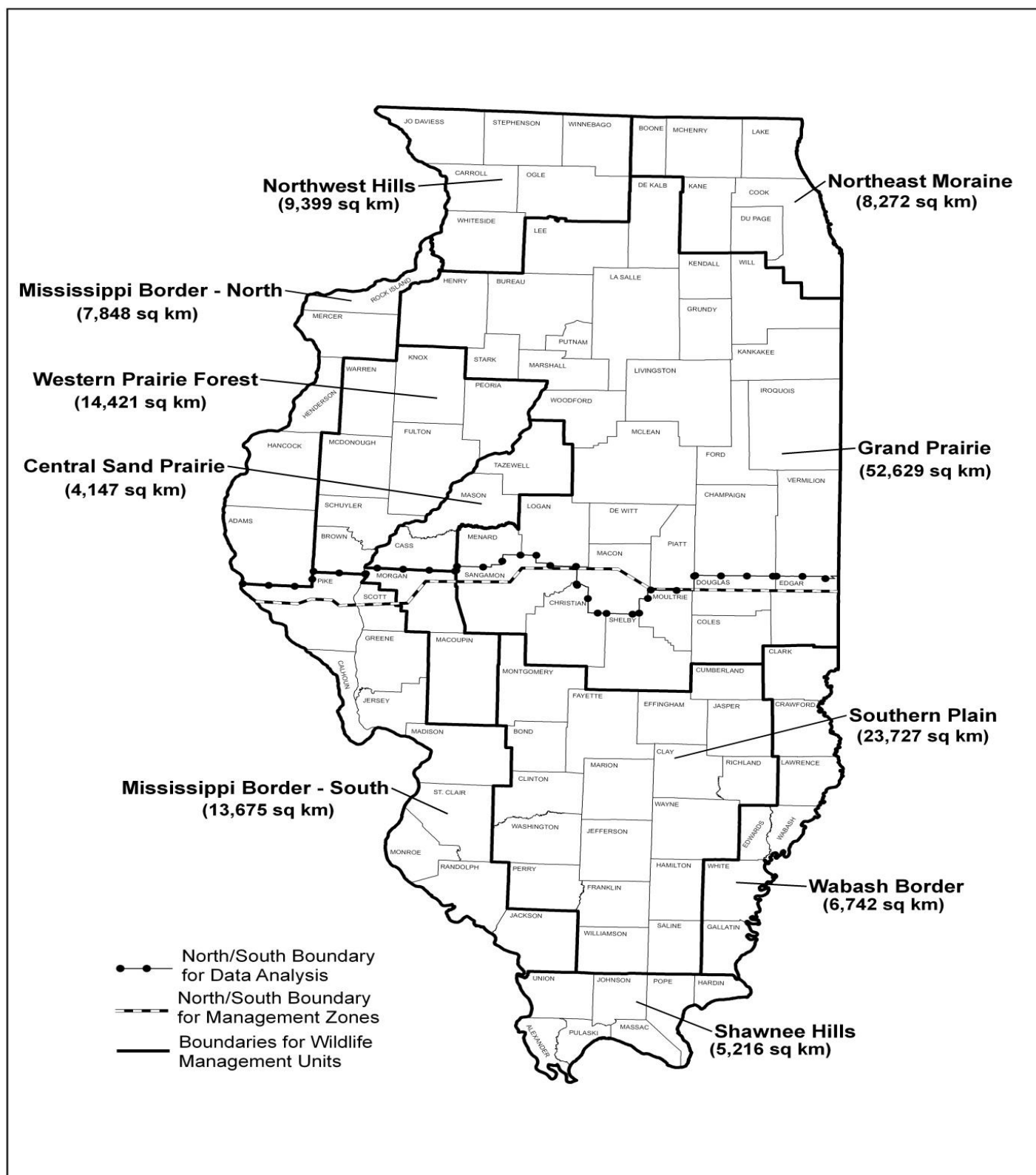


The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. This study is funded by the federal Wildlife Restoration Fund through your purchase of hunting arms and ammunition.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

All of your responses will be kept confidential.
Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided.

Wildlife Management Units and Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois



Section 1. Effort and Harvest. Please answer the following questions about your furbearer trapping and hunting activities during the 2019-20 trapping season in Illinois.

1. Did you set any **traps** for furbearers in Illinois during the 2020-21 trapping season? (Please select **one**)

_____ Yes _____ No (If "No," please go to **Question 7**)

2. Complete each blank for all species **trapped** in Illinois during the 2020-21 season. Report only **your** personal catch. If you trapped with a partner, list only your half of the catch. **DO NOT include animals taken by hunting.**

Species	Number Trapped	Number Sold in Illinois	Number Sold or Shipped Out of State	Number Not Sold
Muskrat				
Mink				
Otter				
Raccoon				
Opossum				
Red Fox				
Gray Fox				
Beaver				
Skunk				
Weasel				
Coyote				
Badger				
Bobcat				

If needed, please refer to the map on the opposite page to answer questions 3 & 4.

3. In which county did you set traps most often during the 2020-21 trapping season? (Please indicate):

_____ County

4. In which zone do you do most of your trapping? _____ North Zone _____ South Zone

5. How many days (or nights) did you set traps during the 2020-21 trapping season? _____ Days (or Nights)

6. What was the average number of traps you set on your trapline during the 2020-21 season? _____ Traps

7. On which type of land do you set traps **most often**? (Please select **one**)

_____ My own private property _____ Public property (State, Federal, and other public lands)

_____ Private outfitter property _____ Private property owned by my family

_____ Private property **not** owned by me

8. Did you sell any furs outside of Illinois? _____ Yes _____ No (If “No,” please go to **Question 9**)

8a. In what states, outside of Illinois, did you sell furs? _____

9. How do you prepare most of the furs you sell? (Please check **one** response)

_____ Fur on carcass (in the round) _____ Green skinned furs _____ Stretched and dried furs

10. How many of the following types of traps did you use on your trap line during the 2021-22 season?

Type of trap	Number owned	Number set
Conibear or body-gripping traps	_____	_____
Steel jaw leg-hold traps	_____	_____
Soft-catch or padded leg-hold traps	_____	_____
Cage-type live traps	_____	_____
Snares (Restricted to water use only)	_____	_____
Other type (Please identify): _____	_____	_____

11. What is your opinion of the opening and closing dates for the 2021-22 trapping season? Please circle **one** number for each date.

	Too early	About right	Too late	I am not sure
Opening date	1	2	3	4
Closing date	1	2	3	4

12. Which of the following **best** describes the amount of **bobcat sign** in the **past 5 years** in the area where you trap? Please circle the number that best describes your response.

Decreased Considerably	Decreased	Stayed the Same	Increased	Increased Considerably
1	2	3	4	5

13. Did you incidentally catch any bobcats during 2021-22 season? _____ Yes _____ No (If “No”, please go to **Section 2**)

13a. How many bobcats did you incidentally catch? _____ caught

13b. How many incidentally caught bobcats did you release alive? _____ released

13c. For which species were you trapping? _____

Section 2. Wildlife Sightings. The furbearer species addressed in the following questions are of special conservation concern to Illinois wildlife biologists. Information you provide will help IDNR manage Illinois wildlife to ensure healthy, sustainable populations.

1. Did you see any **badger(s)** in Illinois during the 2021-22 trapping season? (Please select **one**)

_____ Yes _____ No (If “No,” please go to **Question 2**)

1a. In which county(ies) did you **see badger(s)**?

_____ County _____ County

2. Did you see any **badger sign** in Illinois during the 2021-22 trapping season? (Please select **one**)

_____ Yes _____ No (If “No,” please go to **Question 3**)

2a. In which county(ies) did you **see badger sign**?

_____ County _____ County

3. Did you see any **gray fox(es)** in Illinois during the 2021-22 trapping season? (Please select **one**)

_____ Yes _____ No (If “No,” please go to **Question 4**)

3a. In which county(ies) did you **see gray fox(es)**?

_____ County _____ County

4. Did you see any **gray fox sign** in Illinois during the 2021-22 trapping season? (Please select **one**)

_____ Yes _____ No (If “No,” please go to **Question 5**)

4a. In which county(ies) did you **see gray fox sign**?

_____ County _____ County

5. Did you see any **otter sign** in Illinois during the 2021-22 trapping season? (Please select **one**)

_____ Yes _____ No

5a. Which of the following **best** describes the amount of **otter sign** in the **past 5 years** in the area where you trap? Please circle the number that best describes your response.

Decreased Considerably	Decreased	Stayed the Same	Increased	Increased Considerably
1	2	3	4	5

Section 3. Hunting furbearers. The following section is about hunting furbearers. Please answer the following questions to help us understand furbearer hunting by trappers.

1. Did you **hunt furbearers** with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2021-22 season?

_____ Yes _____ No (If “No”, please go to **Section 4**)

1a. If “Yes,” on which type of land did you **hunt furbearers**? (Please select **one**)

- ☐ Private land owned by me
☐ Private land owned by someone who gave me permission
☐ Private land under a lease
☐ State land
☐ Federal land

2. Please report your **hunting** effort and harvest in Illinois for the following furbearer species. Include only game harvested and days or nights you personally hunted in Illinois. Count only game you retrieved; **do not count animals you were not able to retrieve or that were trapped.** Count partial days or nights hunted as 1 day.

Species targeted	Number of days hunted	Number observed	Number harvested	County hunted <u>most</u> often
Raccoon	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Opossum	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Red Fox	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Gray Fox	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Bobcat	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Woodchuck	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Coyote	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Skunk	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3. Did you hunt furbearers **with dogs** in Illinois during the 2021-22 season?

☐ Yes ☐ No (If “No”, go to **Question 4**)

3a. If “Yes,” which dog breed(s) did you use to hunt furbearers?

4. Do you feel you can safely hunt furbearers after sunset in Illinois? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Did you hunt furbearers after sunset during the 2021-22 season? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If “No”, go to **Section 4**)

5a. If “Yes”, which of the following techniques or equipment did you use during your night hunt?

- ☐ Thermal imaging equipment ☐ Electronic calls ☐ Hunting with dogs
☐ Hand-held or gun-mounted light ☐ Baiting ☐ Night vision equipment
☐ Other:

5b. Which furbearer species did you target while hunting after sunset? (Select all that apply)

☐ Raccoon

☐ Red Fox

☐ Gray Fox

☐ Bobcat

☐ Coyote

☐ Skunk

☐ Opossum

Section 4. Background Information. The following questions provide important information to help us understand more about the people who trap in Illinois. Please tell us about yourself by completing the following questions. All responses will be kept confidential.

1. Please give your age. Years

2. Please give your gender. ☐ Male ☐ Female

3. What is your county of residence? County

4. How many years have you been trapping in Illinois? Years

5. How old were you when you started trapping? Years

6. Did you purchase an Illinois hunting license during 2021? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Have you ever mentored a new trapper? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Do you know of anyone who does not trap, but is interested in trapping?

☐ Yes What are their ages?

☐ No

9. Do you receive announcements from IDNR in your email?

☐ Yes ☐ Not now, but I used to get them ☐ No

10. Did you sign up for email announcements from IDNR? ☐ Yes ☐ No

11. Would you use a website that would allow you to search the number of animals harvested by species and number of hunters for each IDNR site by year and season?

☐ Yes ☐ No

12. Would you use a website that would show the number of permits allocated by species for each IDNR site per year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

13. Have you missed a permit application deadline because you did not know it was due?

☐ Yes ☐ No

14. Do you have Internet access in your home? _____ Yes _____ No

14a. If “Yes,” do you have high-speed Internet access? _____ Yes _____ No

15. In the **past 5 years** has your trapping effort for **any game species**: (Please select **one**)

_____ Increased _____ Stayed the same _____ Decreased

16. Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following as they apply to trapping in Illinois. Please circle one number for each line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
I trap more when fur prices are higher	1	2	3	4	5
Covid-19 caused fur prices to decrease	1	2	3	4	5
Covid-19 allowed me to trap more often	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!
Please return this survey in the postage-paid envelope provided.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the Officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Appendix B



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Illinois Trapper,

Your name was selected from the list of 2021 Illinois trapping license purchasers. We are asking you to provide information about your trapping activities during the 2021-22 trapping season in Illinois. **Even if you were not successful or did not trap in Illinois during the 2021-2022 seasons, we ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the portions of the questionnaire that pertain to you.**

The information you and other selected trappers furnish our biologists is vital for proper furbearer management and allows us to safeguard furbearer populations while maximizing trapping opportunities. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.** Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the postage paid envelope provided.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at <https://publish.illinois.edu/human-dimensions/>. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/wildlife/>.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121 or email us at laurenjs@illinois.edu.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Miller".

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Appendix C



Dear Illinois Trapper,

Recently you were mailed a questionnaire about your trapping activities in Illinois. We have not yet received your response. **If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. Your input is very important!**

Your name and address will be deleted from our mailing list when your questionnaire is received. Thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix D



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Illinois Trapper,

You recently received a survey questionnaire requesting information about your trapping activities during the 2021-2022 trapping seasons. We have not received your completed survey questionnaire at this time. If you recently returned your questionnaire, we thank you. If not, we have enclosed a second one for you. Please take a few moments of your time to complete this questionnaire even if you were not successful or did not trap during the 2021-2022 trapping seasons.

The information you and other selected trappers furnish our biologists is vital for proper furbearer management and allows us to safeguard furbearer populations while maximizing trapping opportunities.

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the postage paid envelope provided.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121 or email us at laurenjs@illinois.edu.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Miller".

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Appendix E



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Illinois Trapper,

You recently received a survey questionnaire requesting information about your trapping activities during the 2021-2022 trapping seasons. We have not received your completed survey questionnaire at this time. If you recently returned your questionnaire, we thank you.

If you have not returned your completed questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. We have enclosed another copy for your use. We understand it is unusual to receive a harvest survey so long past the season and realize it might not be easy to recall exactly your hunting experiences. This study began later than usual due to factors beyond our control, and we ask that you please complete the questionnaire to the best of your ability. Your response is important for future furbearer management in Illinois. Please take a few moments of your time to complete this questionnaire even if you were not successful or did not trap during the 2021-2022 trapping seasons.

The information you and other selected trappers furnish our biologists is vital for proper furbearer management and allows us to safeguard furbearer populations while maximizing trapping opportunities.

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the postage paid envelope provided.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121 or email us at laurenjs@illinois.edu.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Miller".

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Appendix F

FURBEARER TRAPPING REGULATIONS				
SPECIES	Zone	DATES	LIMIT	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Raccoon	Statewide	10 Nov 2021 - 15 Feb 2022	None	
Opossum				
Striped Skunk				
Weasels				
Mink				
Muskrat				
Fox (Red and Gray)				
Coyote				
Badger	North		2 per person per season	
	South		1 per person per season	
Bobcat	See Bobcat Zone map		One by permit only	Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to harvest a bobcat. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of taking a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited.
Beaver	Statewide	10 Nov 2021 - 31 Mar 2022	None	
River Otter	Statewide	10 Nov 2021 - 31 Mar 2022		
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	Statewide	1 Jun - 30 Sep 2021	None	

FURBEARER HUNTING REGULATIONS			
Species	Dates	Hours	Additional Regulations
Raccoon	10 Nov 2021 - 15 Feb 2022	Open 24 hours and season begins ½ hour before sunrise on opening day and closes ½ hour after sunset on closing day. See Archery Restrictions	During Archery Deer Season, bow hunting hours for raccoon, opossum, fox, coyote, and striped skunk will be ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
Opossum			
Fox (Red and Gray)			
Bobcat	1 Jun 2021 - 31 Mar 2022 Closed during first and second firearm deer seasons <u>in counties open to firearm deer hunting.</u>	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunrise	Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to harvest a bobcat. Limit one bobcat per person per season. Must purchase Bobcat registration Permit within 48 hours of harvesting a bobcat. Taking bobcats in a closed zone is prohibited.
Woodchuck			
Coyote			Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may harvest coyotes during firearm deer seasons with weapons legal for deer hunting ½ before sunrise to ½ after sunset.
Striped Skunk	Year round Closed during the first and second firearm deer seasons <u>in counties open to firearm deer hunting.</u>	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. No time restriction 10 Nov 2021 - 15 Mar 2022	There is no limit on foxes, coyote, opossum, raccoon, striped skunk, and woodchuck.