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University of Illinois at
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Natalie Phelps Finnie,
Director, Illinois Department
of Natural Resources

Jennifer Wellman,
Federal Aid Coordinator

Mike Wefer,
Chief, Division of Wildlife
Resources

2022-23

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



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2022-23
ILLINOIS TRAPPER REPORT:
Harvest, Effort, and Marketing Practices

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

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STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.2

Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.
Human Dimensions Research Program
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W-112-R-32
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Mike Wefer, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

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^a WMU = Wildlife Management Unit

^b FMZ = Furbearer Management Zones

ABSTRACT

We sampled 1,200 of 2022-23 resident Illinois trapping license purchasers from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources licensing database. Licensees were mailed an 8-page questionnaire, and we received 497 (42%) questionnaires. Trapping license sales decreased 2.1 from 2021-22 (7,016) to 2022-23 (6,868). Trappers set an average of 15.7 traps for an average of 29.5 days or nights during the 2022-23 season and harvested an estimated 127,756 furbearers (down 6.7% from the 136,294 harvested in 2021-22). An estimated 67,892 raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) were trapped during the 2022-23 Illinois trapping season, an increase of 0.9% from the estimated 67,288 trapped during the 2021-22 season. Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) harvest was the next highest at 16,334 opossums (8.9% increase from the previous year).

OBJECTIVE

To survey furbearer (14 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 (2022-23) 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 08 June 2023. The initial sample of 1,200 licenses was reduced to 1,174 due to undeliverable addresses. Nonrespondents were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) on 06 July 2023. Remaining non-respondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 03 August 2023. Trappers who did not respond to the previous mailings were mailed a second thank you/reminder postcard on 23 August 2023. A third final questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) were sent on 12 September 2023. Season date information can be found in Appendix F.

RESULTS

A total of 497 license purchasers responded with usable questionnaires, resulting in a 42% 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 497 respondents, 221 (44.5%) set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2022-23 season (Figure 1). There were more trappers in the north zone than the south (Figure 2). Active trappers set an average of 15.7 traps for an average of 29.5 days or nights (Figure 3). Maximum number of days a trapper could have trapped was 142 (Appendix F); 10.9% set traps for > 30 days and 4.6 of trappers set traps for > 50 days (Figure 4).

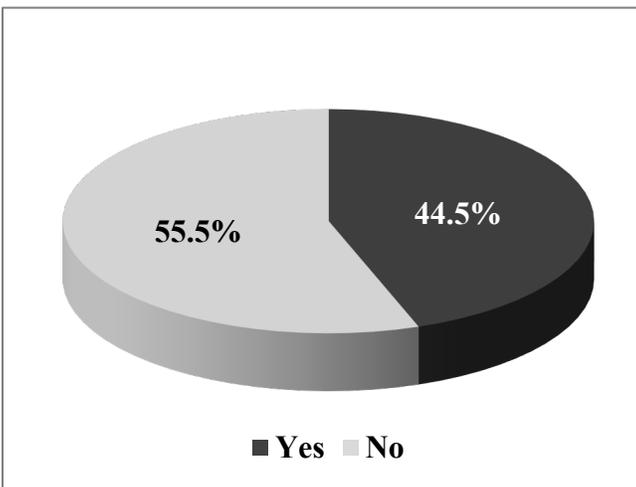


Figure 1. License purchasers who set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2022-23 trapping season ($n = 497$).

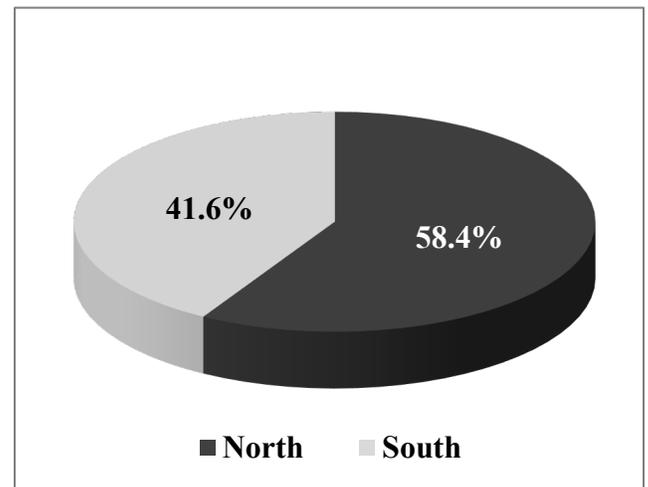


Figure 2. Distribution of active trappers by zones in Illinois ($n = 221$).

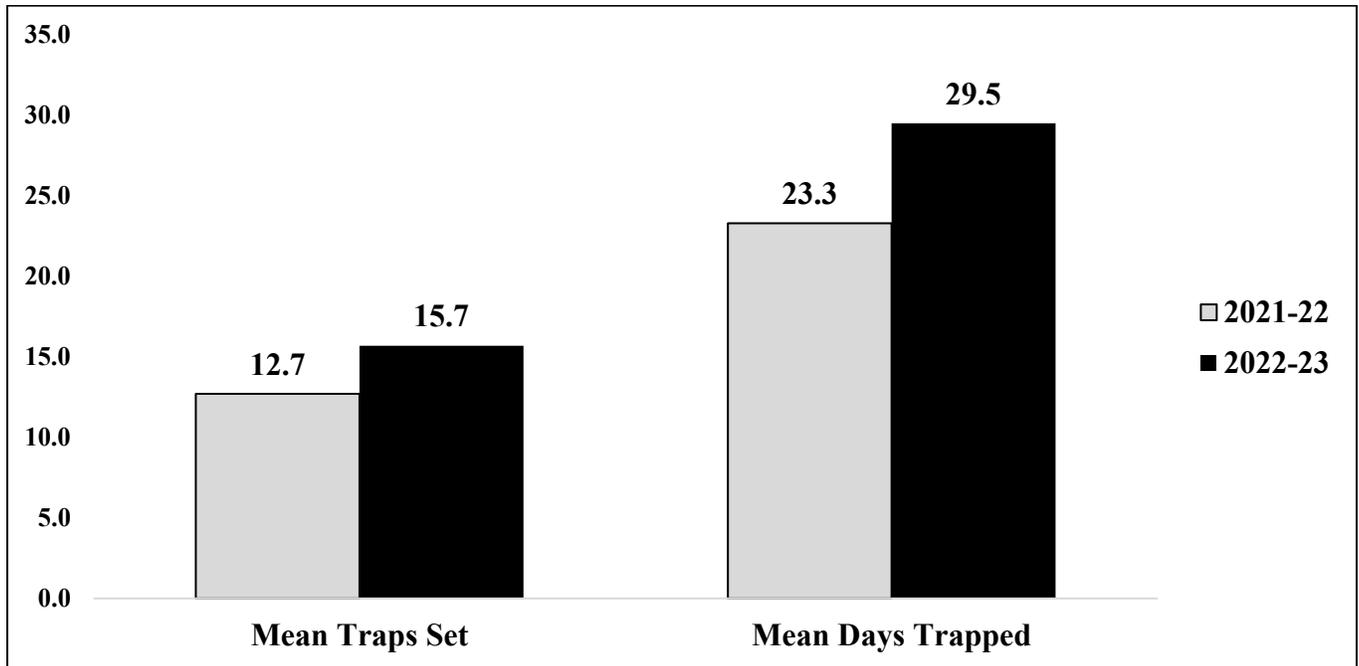


Figure 3. Comparison of trapping activity reported in 2021-22 and 2022-23 Illinois Trapper Survey.

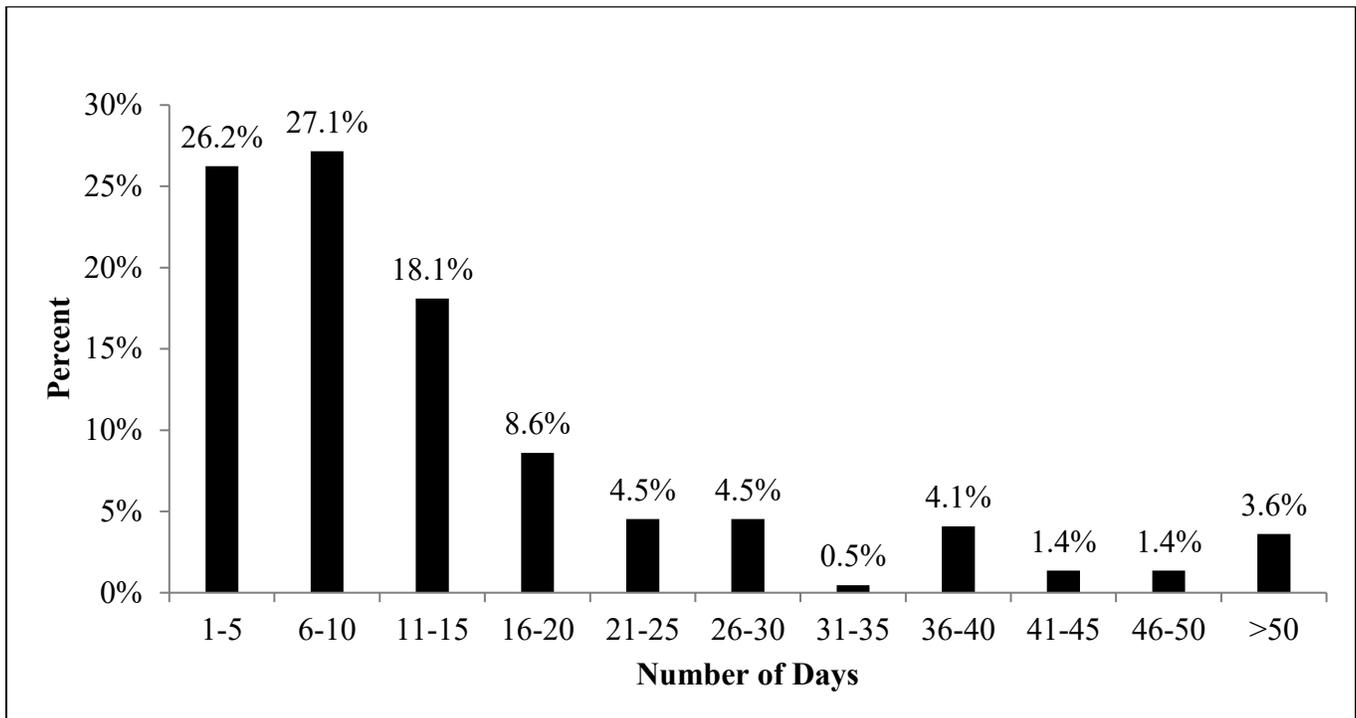


Figure 4. Distribution of days of trapping by active trappers in Illinois, 2022-23 season ($n = 221$).

Participation during the 2022-23 season was highest among raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) trappers, estimated at 2,363 successful trappers statewide (Table 3), a decrease of 18% from the 2021-22 trapping season. Opossum

(*Didelphis virginiana*; 1,508 successful trappers), Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) trapping was second 1,271 successful trappers, coyote (*Canis latrans*; 1,008 successful trappers), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*; 954 successful trappers), striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*; 801 successful trappers), and otter (*Lontra canadensis*; 483 successful trappers). Mink (*Neovison vison*; 373 successful trappers), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*; 304 successful trappers), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*; 97 successful trappers), badger (*Taxidea taxus*; 41 successful trappers), weasel (*Mustela frenata* and *nivalis*; 27 successful trappers), and gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*; 13 successful trappers) were the least trapped species.

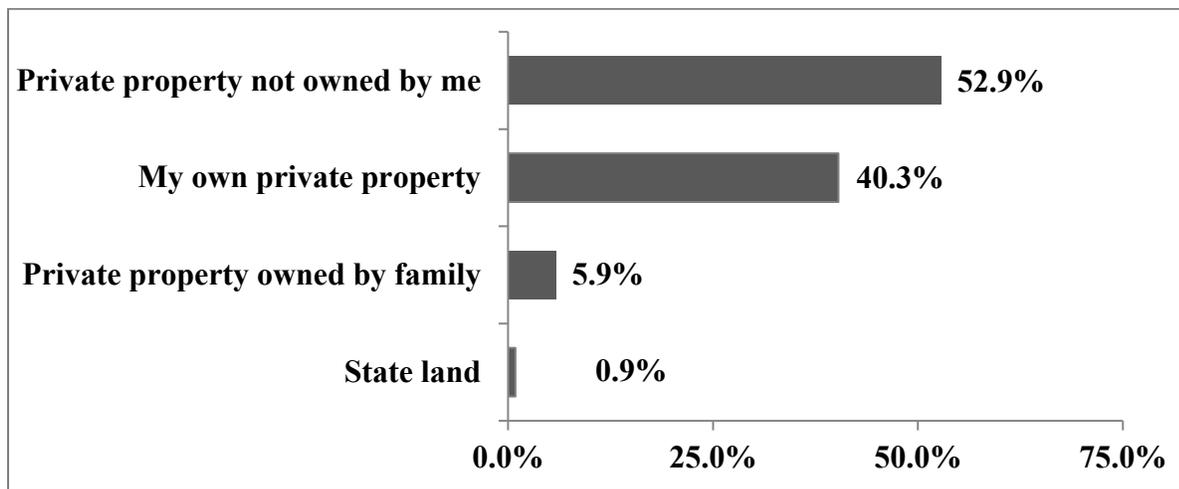


Figure 5. Type of land on which trappers set traps most ($n=221$).

Harvest

An estimated 67,892 raccoons were trapped during the 2022-23 Illinois trapping season (Table 3), an increase of 0.9% from the estimated 67,288 trapped during the 2021-22 season. Weasel (83; 532% increase from previous year) and opossum (16,334; 8.9% increase from previous year) had increased harvest as compared to previous years. All other species, including muskrat (22,386; 29.4% decrease from previous year) had decreases in harvest totals for the season. The number of muskrats harvested averaged 16.6 per trapper and ranged from 1-272 (Figure 6), and the number of raccoons harvested averaged 28.7 per trapper and ranged from 1-346 (Figure 7). Confidence intervals (95%) for trapper participation and harvest of each species are presented

in Table 3. Harvest and trapping effort for each species are reported for each wildlife management unit and furbearer management zone (Tables 4-29).

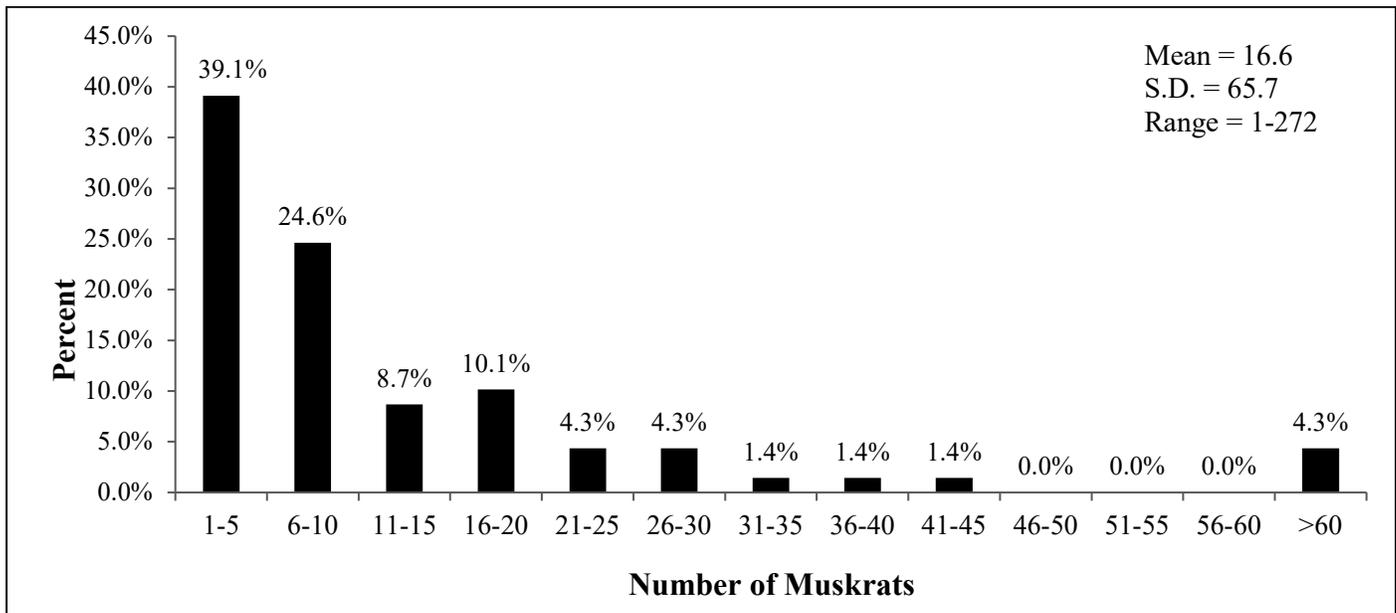


Figure 6. Distribution of the number of muskrats trapped per successful muskrat trapper in Illinois, 2022-23 season ($n = 69$).

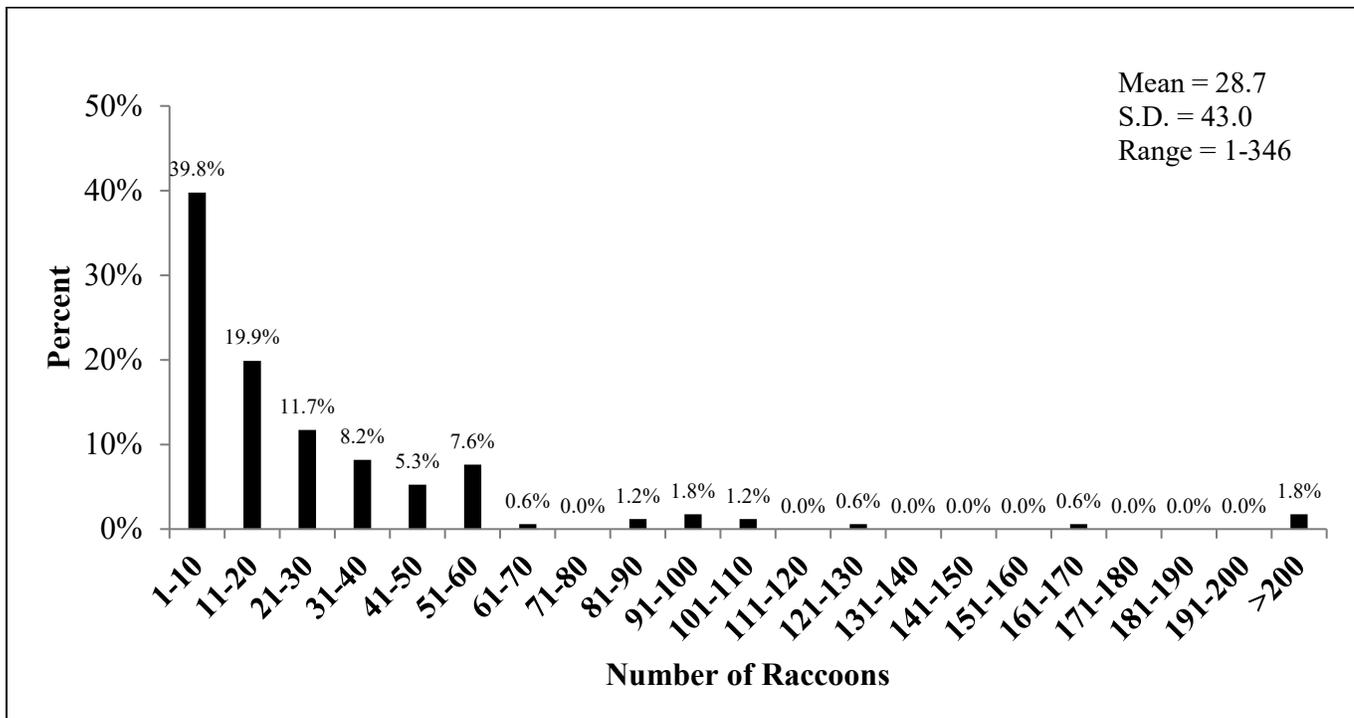


Figure 7. Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per successful raccoon trapper in Illinois, 2022-23 season ($n = 171$).

Estimated number of pelts sold in 2022-23 is presented by species (Table 30). Fifteen trappers (3.0%) sold furs out of Illinois, and most (47%) sales outside Illinois were sold in Canada (Figure 8). The states in which furs were sold, in decreasing order of popularity, were: Missouri, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Iowa. Furs were most often sold stretched and dried (Figure 9). Ten trappers sold furs on the craft market in the 2022-23 season (Figure 10). Coyote, beaver, raccoon, and otter were the most sold furs whereas mink, fox, and muskrat were the least sold. These furs were sold via word of mouth, to friends, thorough Facebook market, a local outdoor market, or at local fairs and festivals.

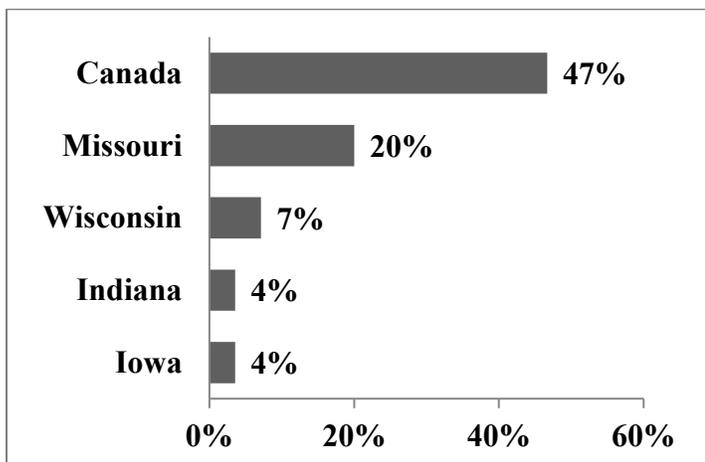


Figure 8. Where trappers sold furs outside of Illinois ($n = 15$).

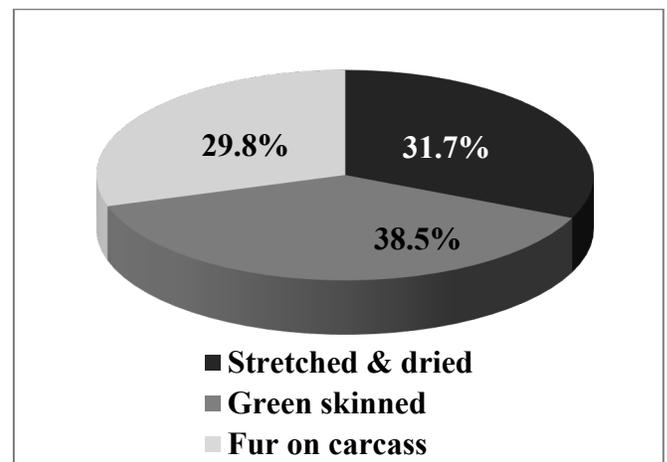


Figure 9. How trappers most often prepared sold furs ($n = 221$).

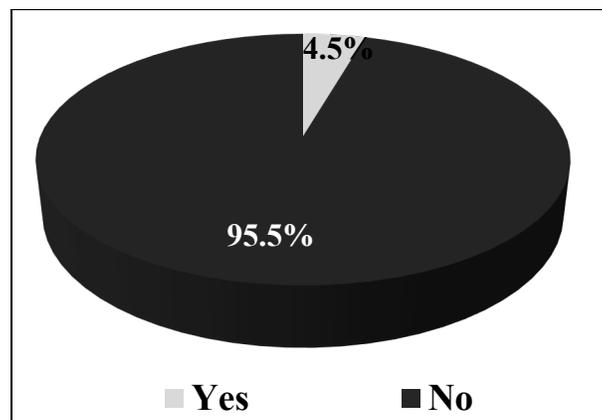


Figure 10. Percent of trappers who sold furs on the craft market ($n = 221$).

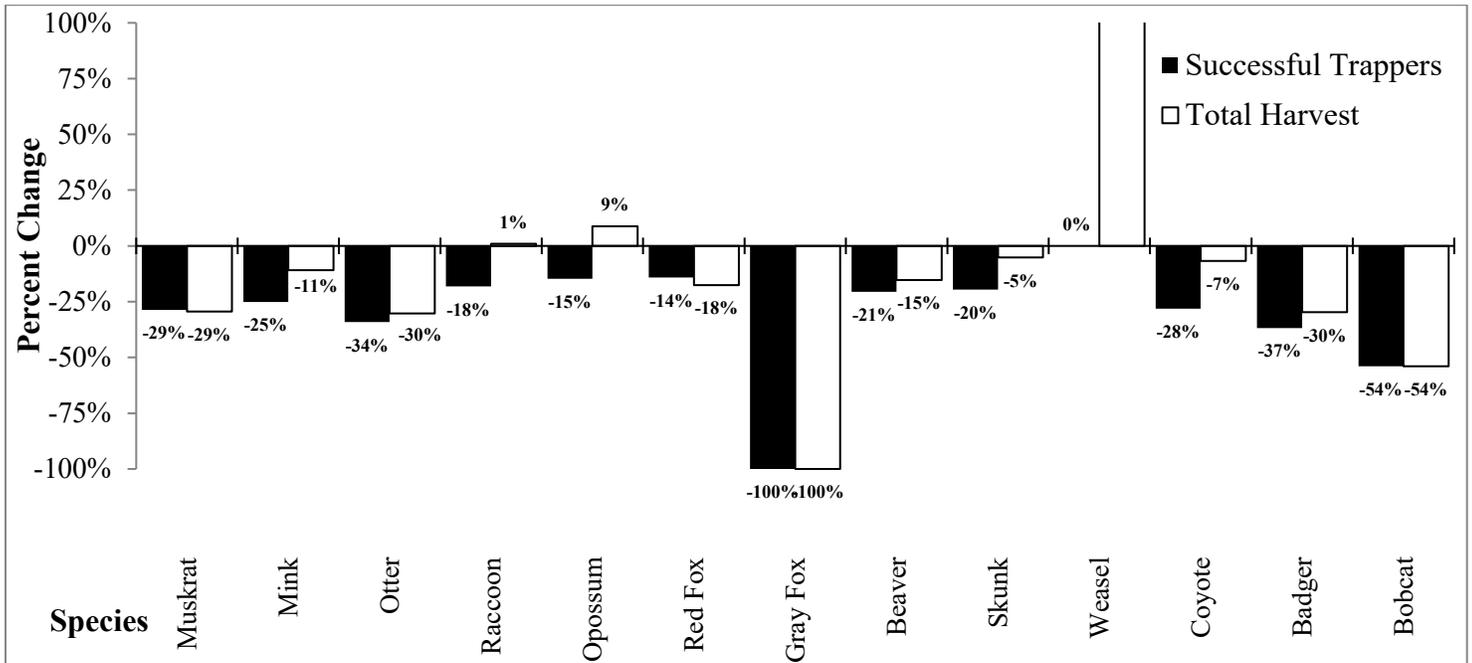


Figure 11. Percent change in number of successful trappers and harvest by species between 2021-22 and 2022-23 license years.

Changes in Trapper Participation and Harvest

The number of Illinois residents participating in trapping decreased 2.1% during 2022-23 from 2021-22 (6,868 from 7,016 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 10). Trends in statewide harvests of furbearers for the previous 10 years are listed in Table 31. Changes in trapper harvest over the past twelve years (2010-2022) for each species type and all species are shown in Figures 12-25. Ten-year trends for otter and bobcat harvest data have not yet been established and therefore are not included in the figures provided below.

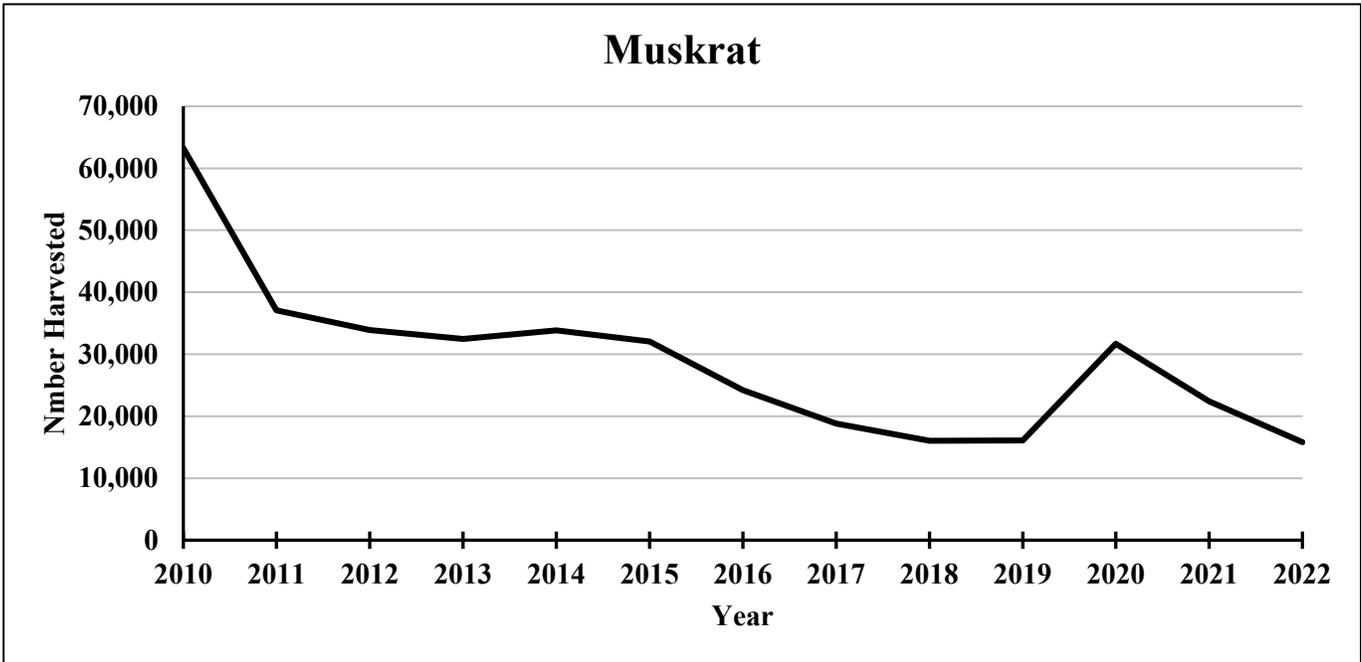


Figure 12. Muskrat harvest 2010 to 2022.

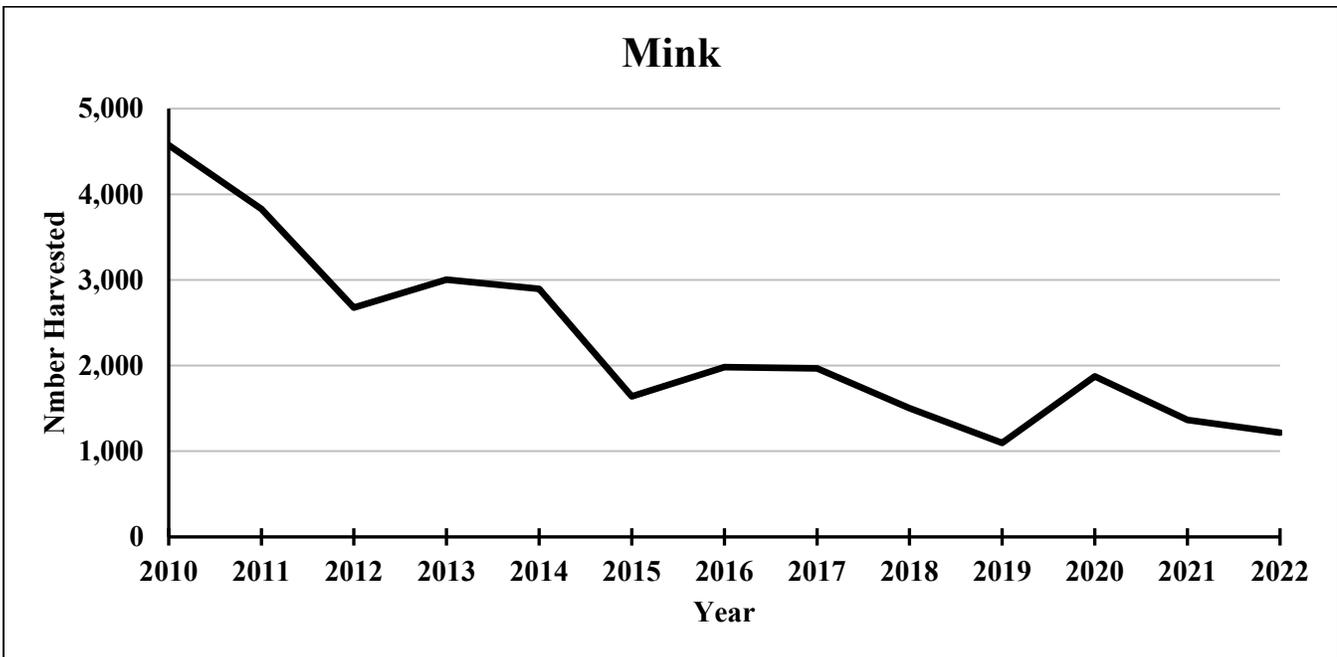


Figure 13. Mink harvest 2010 to 2022.

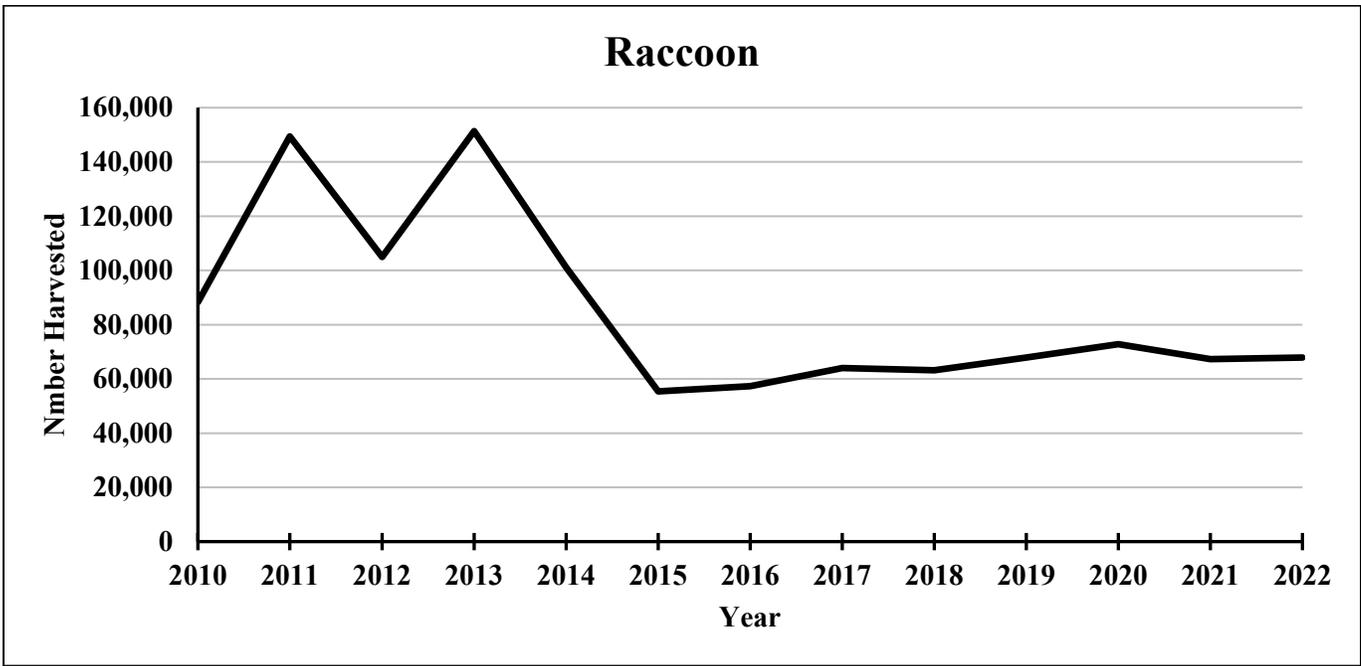


Figure 14. Raccoon harvest 2010 to 2022.

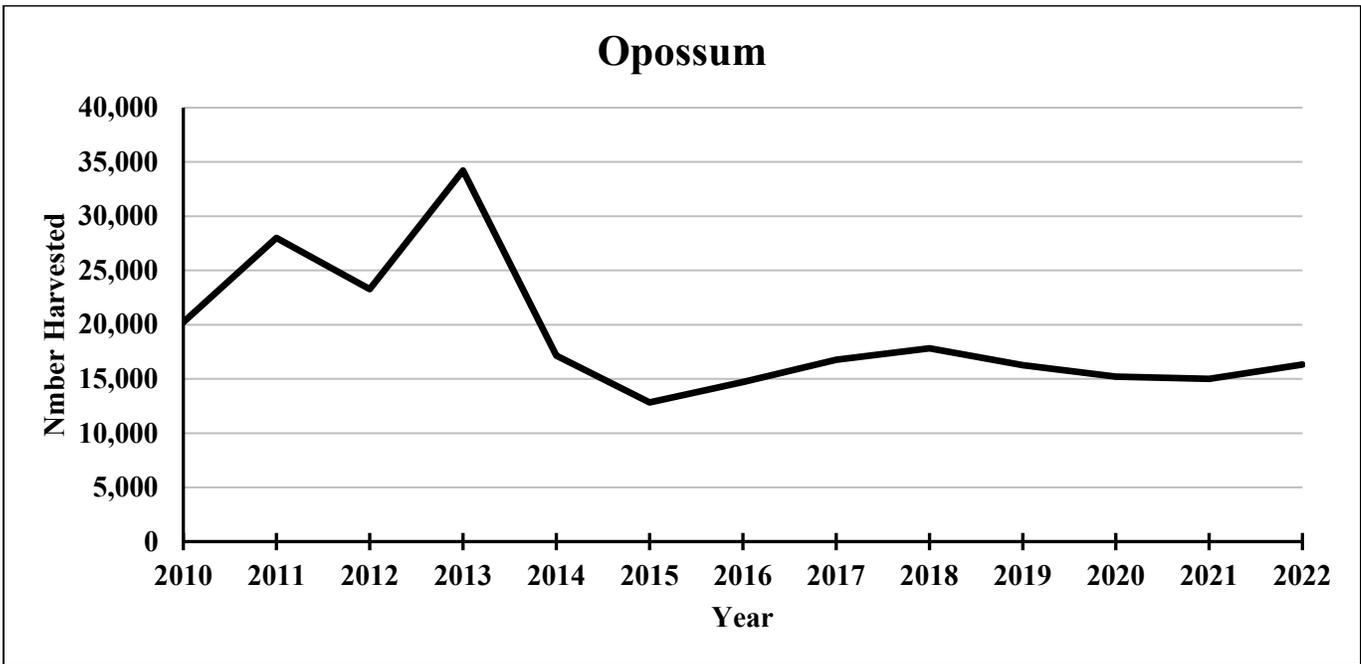


Figure 15. Opossum harvest 2010 to 2022.

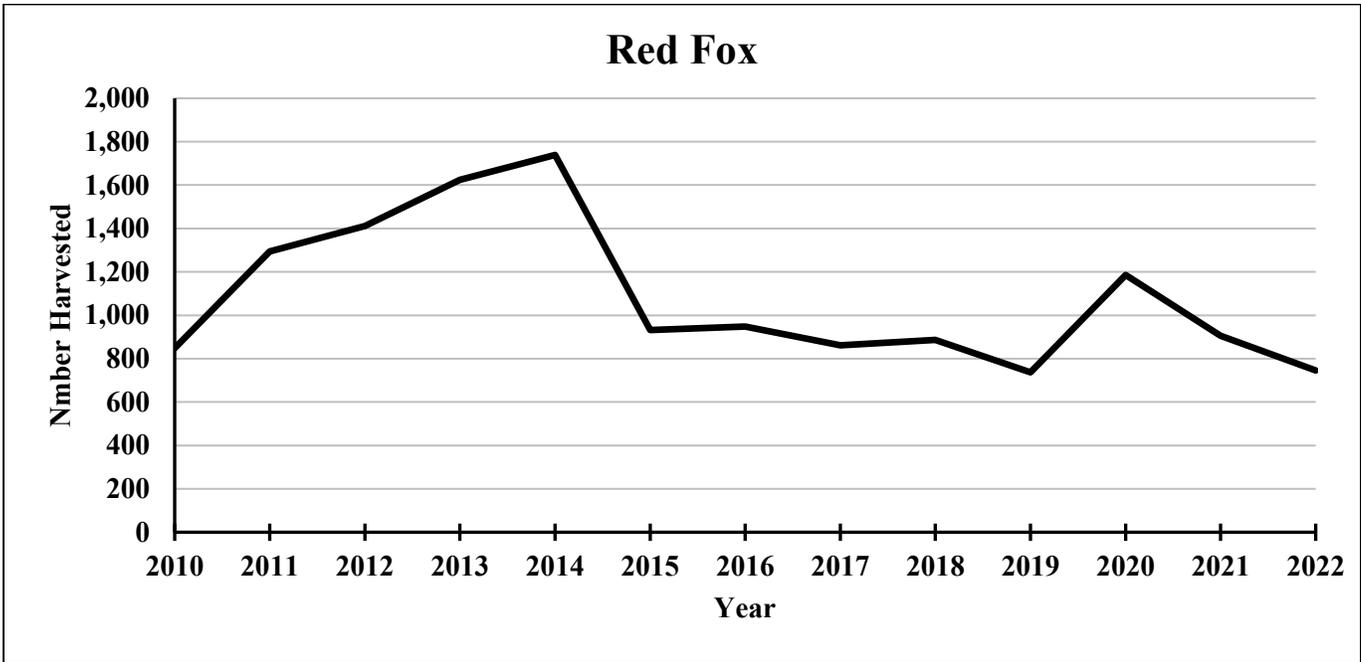


Figure 16. Red Fox harvest 2010 to 2022.

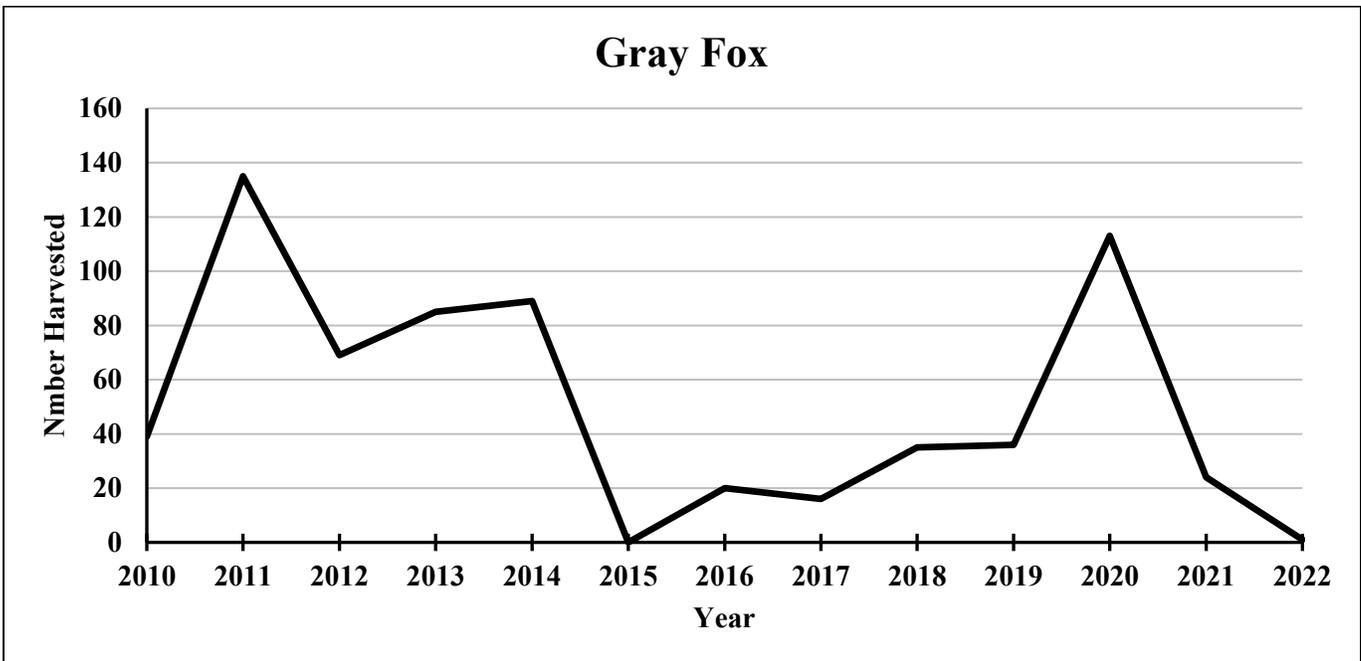


Figure 17. Gray Fox harvest 2010 to 2022.

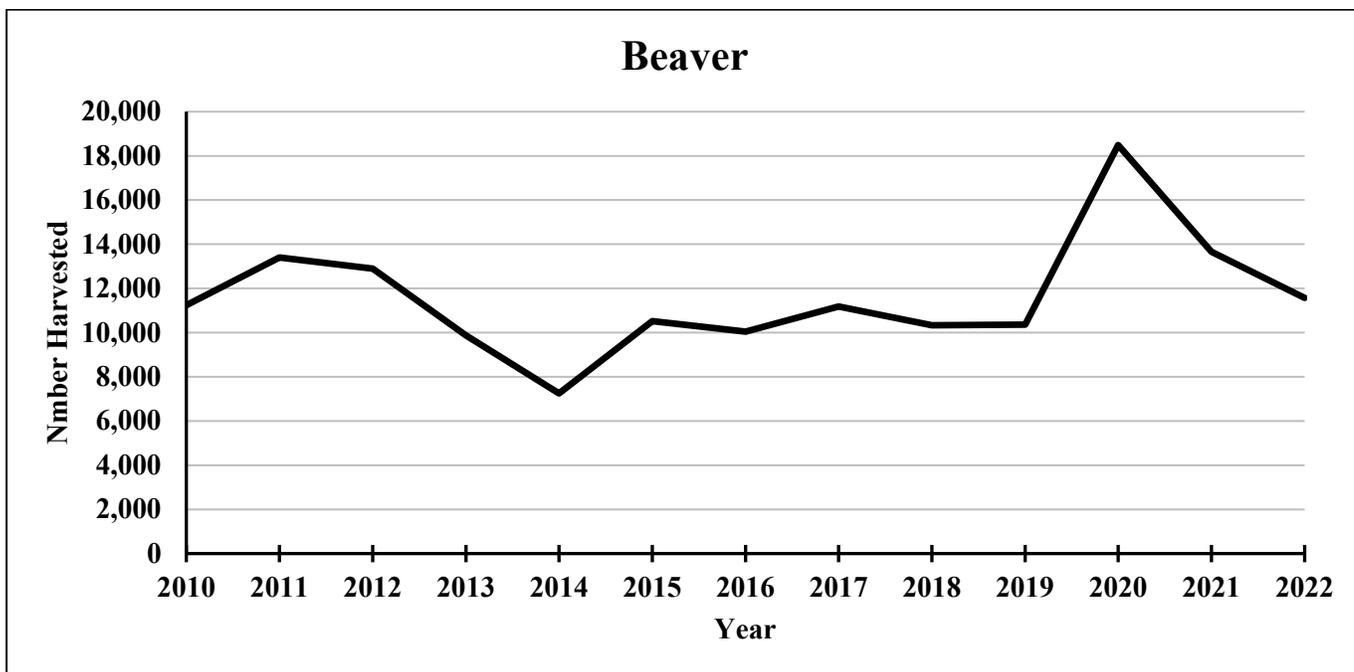


Figure 18. Beaver harvest 2010 to 2022.

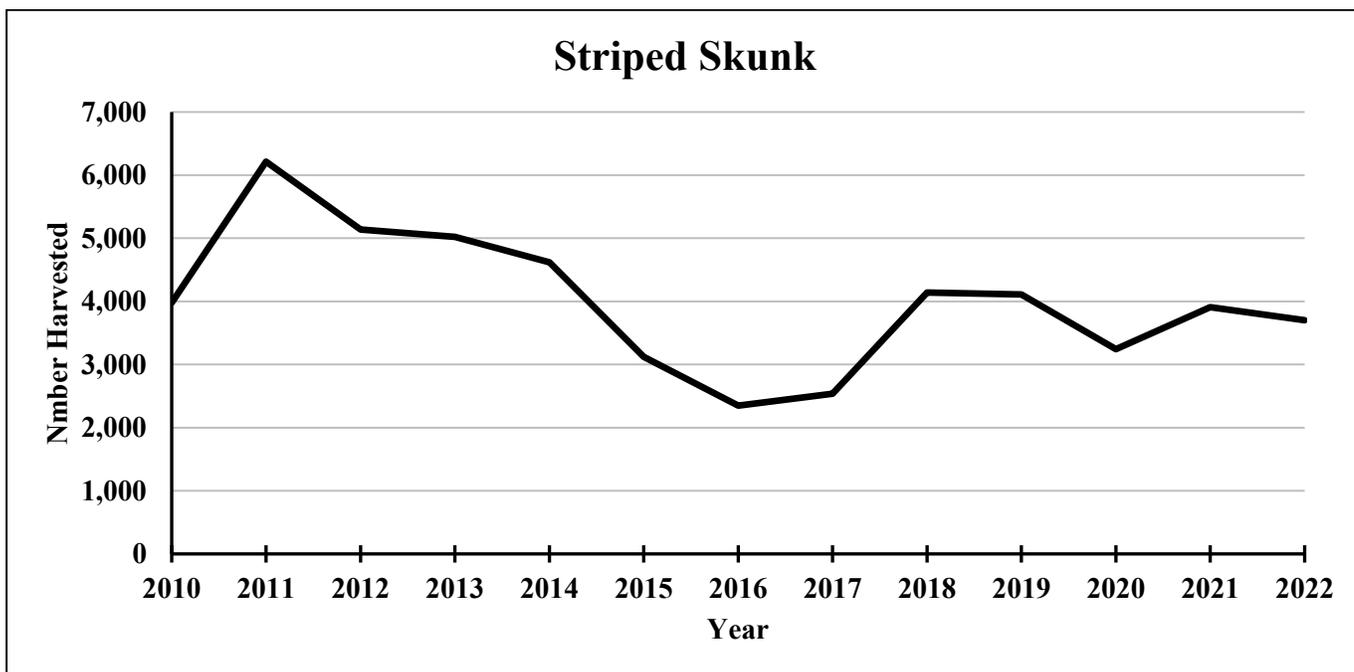


Figure 19. Striped Skunk harvest 2010 to 2022.

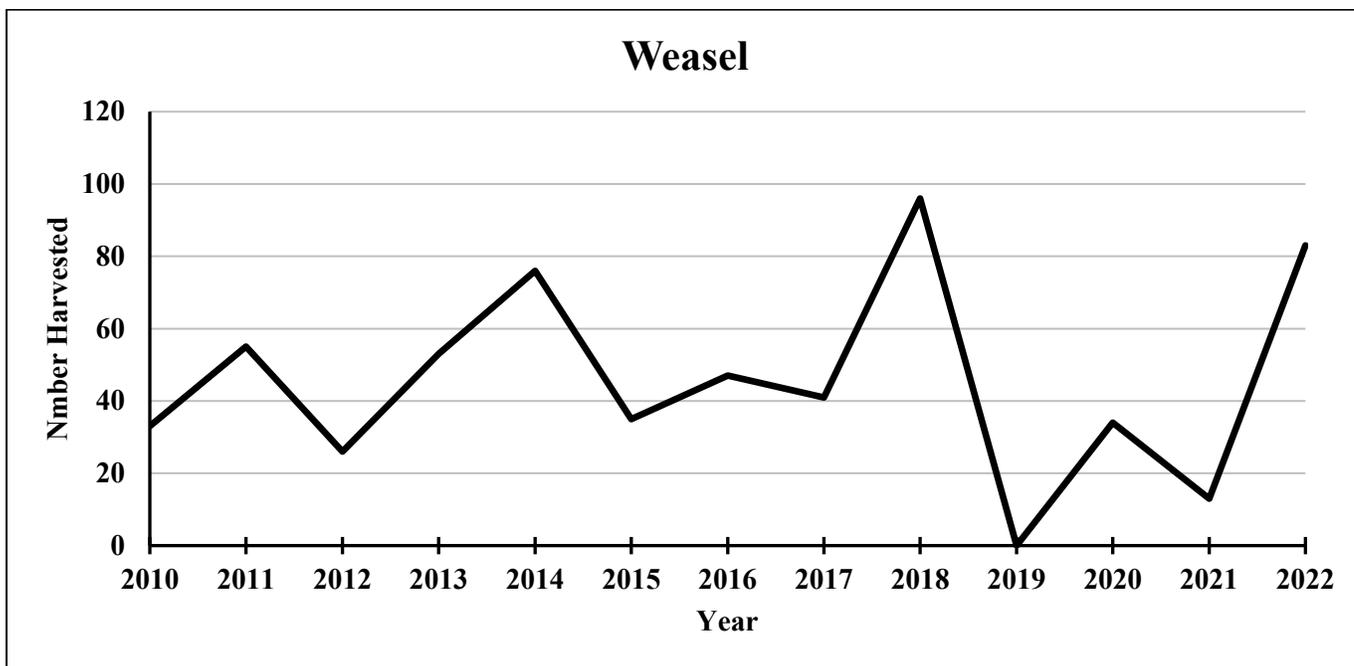


Figure 20. Weasel harvest 2010 to 2022.

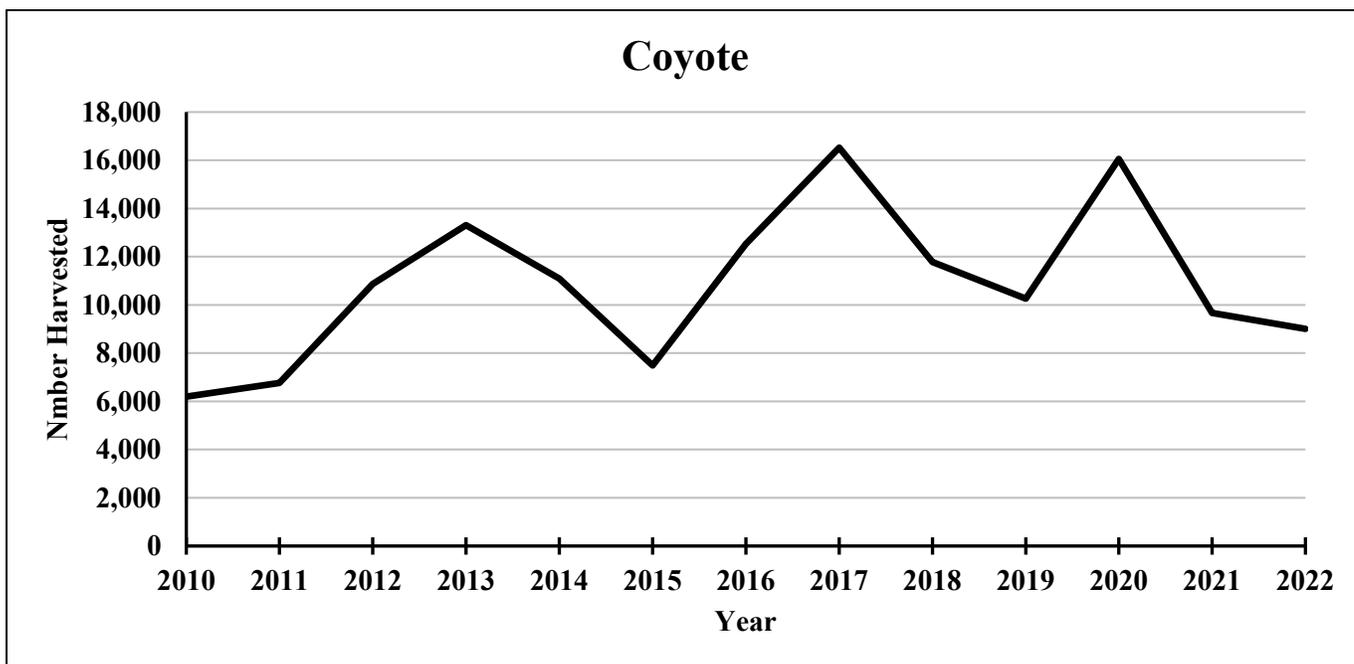


Figure 21. Coyote harvest 2010 to 2022.

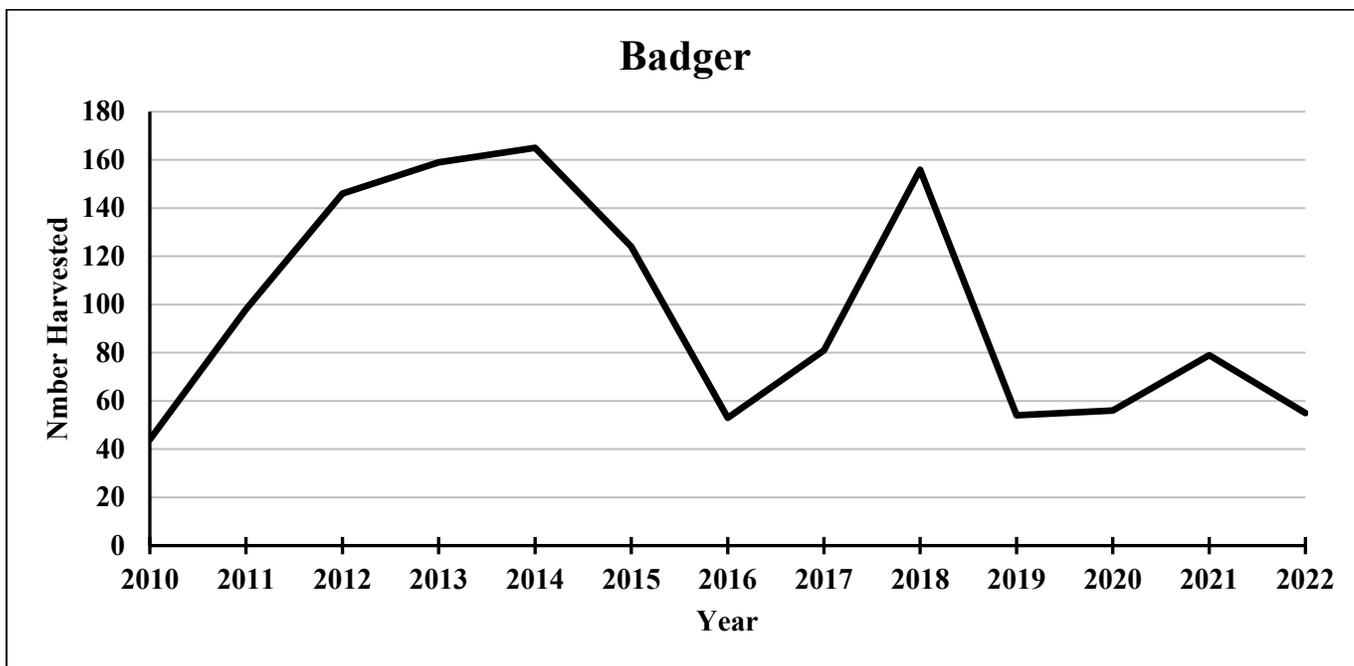


Figure 22. Badger harvest 2010 to 2022.

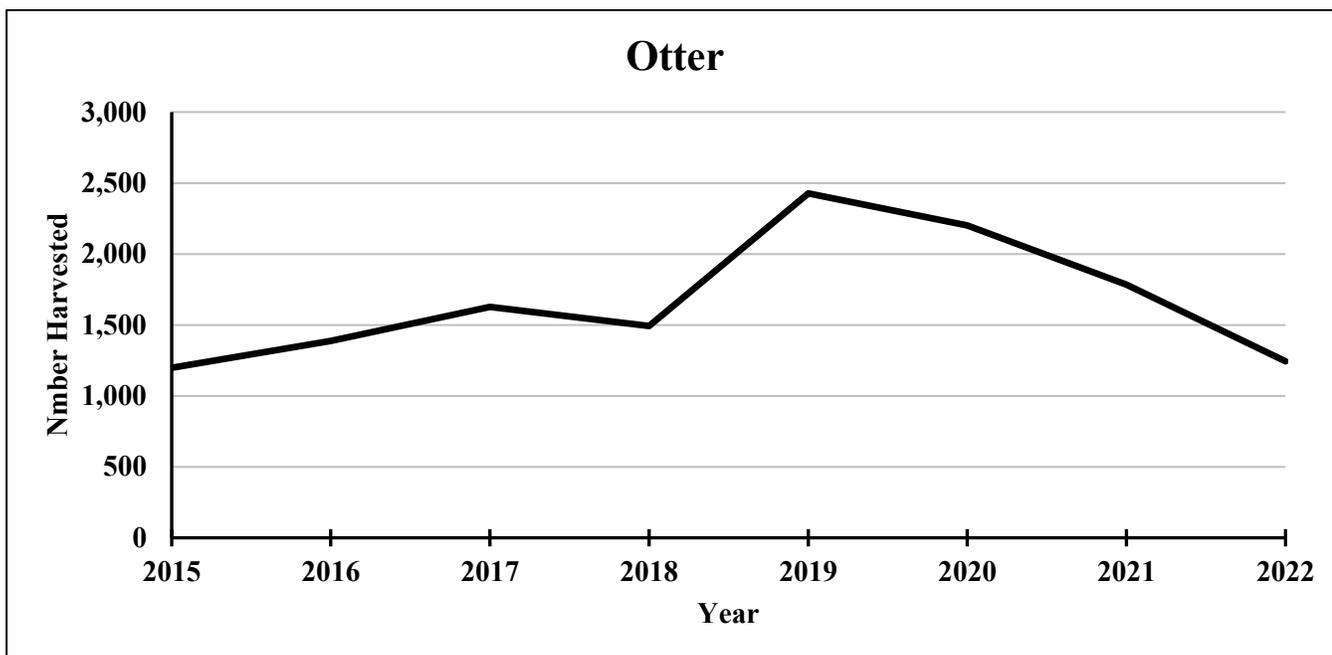


Figure 23. Otter harvest 2015 to 2022.

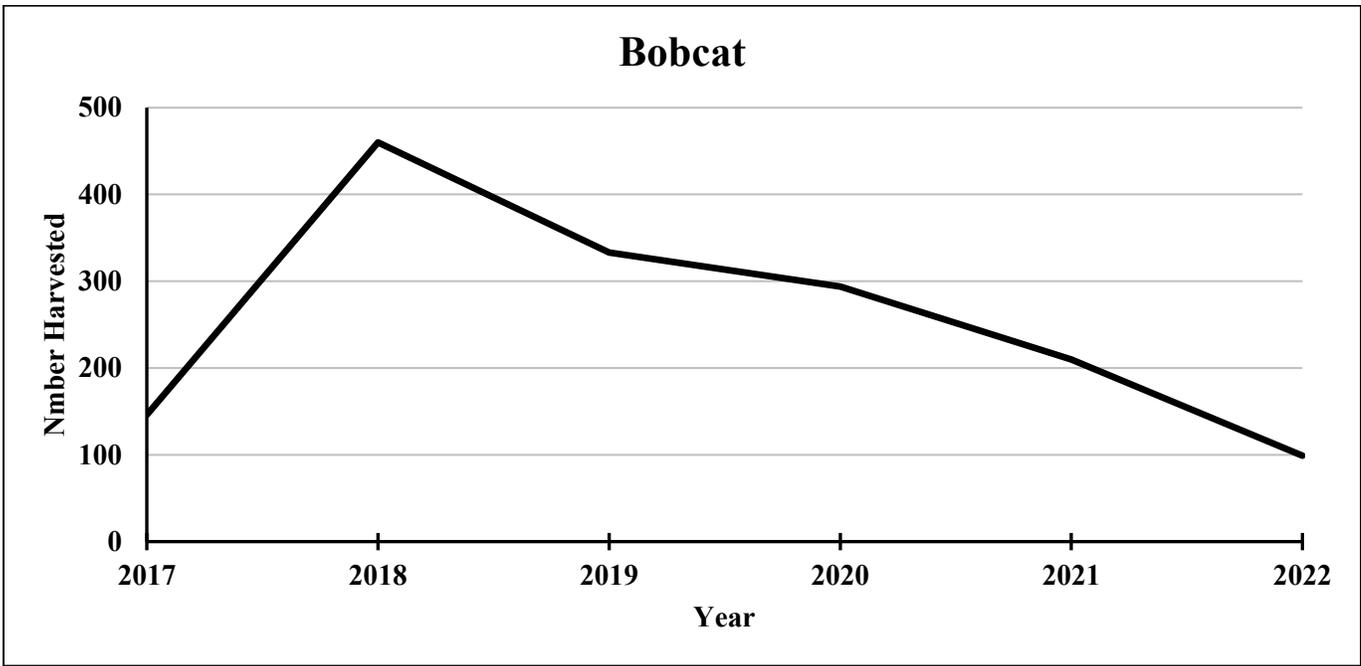


Figure 24. Bobcat harvest 2017 to 2022.

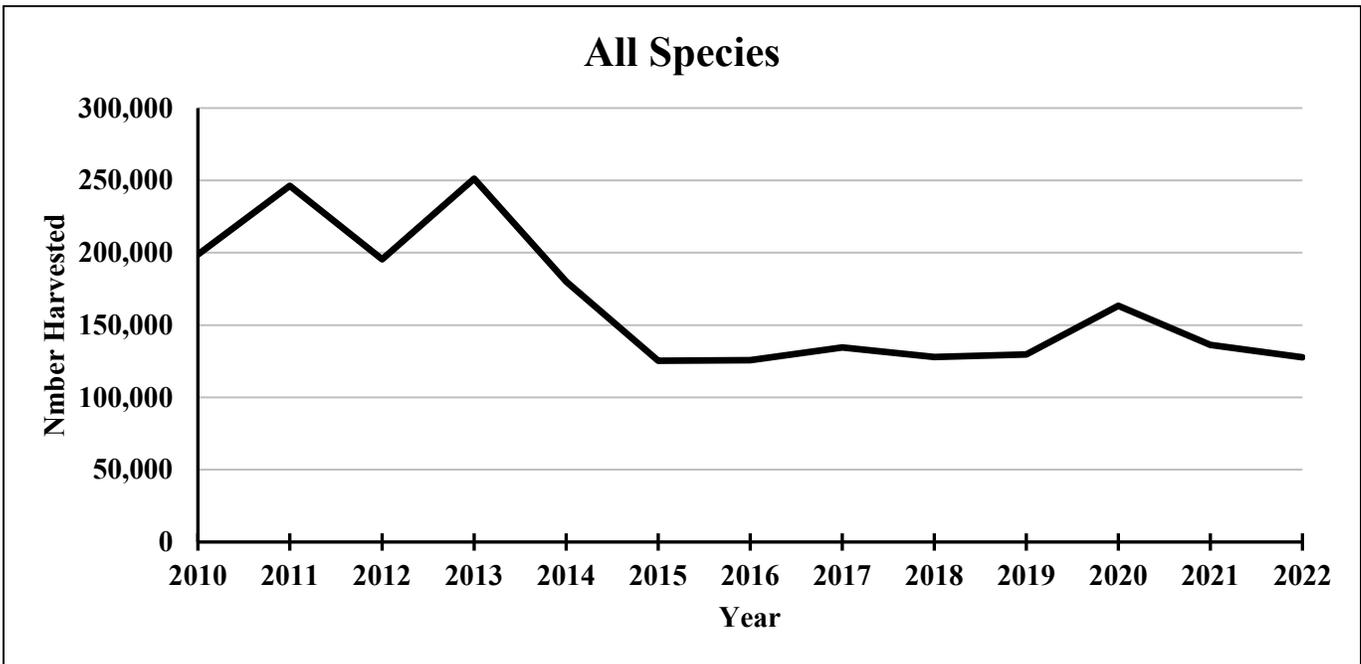


Figure 25. All species' harvest 2010 to 2022. *Years 2014 and prior do not include otter harvest and years prior to 2017 do not include bobcat.

Fur Hunting by Trappers

A total of 123 trappers, 24.7% of respondents, reported hunting furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in 2022-23 (Figure 26) and almost a quarter (23.0%) of those who hunted furbearers used a dog (Figure 27). Almost all furbearer hunting occurred on private property (99.2%) and over half (56.9%) occurred on private land owned by the hunter or a family member (Figure 28). There were an estimated 1,699 trapper license purchasers who hunted furbearers during 2022-23. Their total harvest was estimated to be 27,016 furbearers or an average of 15.9 furbearers per hunter (Table 32). Trappers harvested more raccoon and coyote than any other species. Eighty-four percent of participants felt safe hunting in Illinois after sunset (Figure 30). Two-thirds of furbearer hunters had done so after sunset in the 2022-23 season (Figure 31). To hunt furbearer after sunset, trappers used electronic calls (60.0%), hand-held or gun mounted lights (49.4%), thermal imaging equipment (40.0%), night vision equipment (24.7%), dogs (24.7%), and baiting (8.0%). The most hunted species were coyote (69.4%) and raccoon (60.0%), followed by red fox (7.1%), gray fox (3.5%), bobcat (3.5%), skunk (3.5%), and opossum (3.5%).

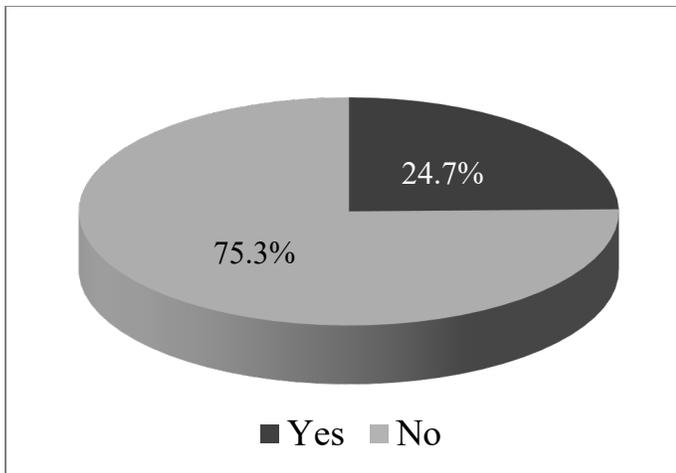


Figure 26. Trappers who hunted furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2022-23 season (n = 497).

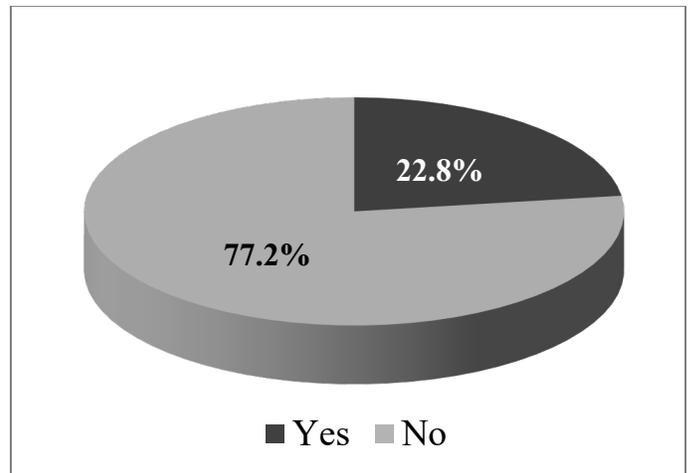


Figure 27. Percent of furbearer hunters who hunted with dogs during the 2022-23 season (n = 123).

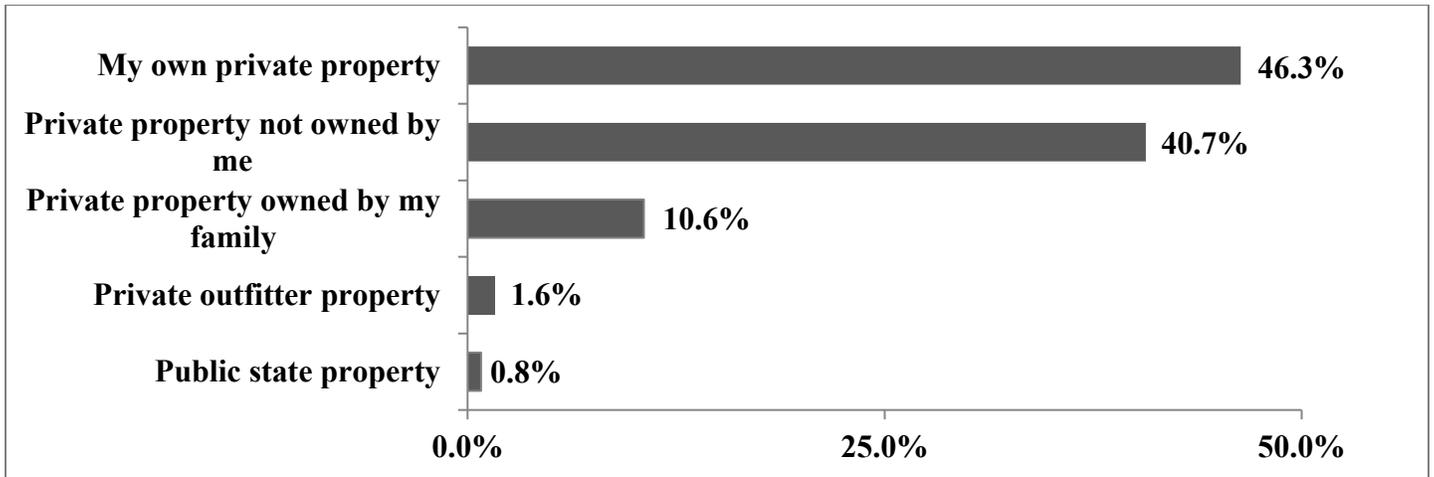


Figure 28. Type of land on which respondents most often hunted furbearers (n=123).

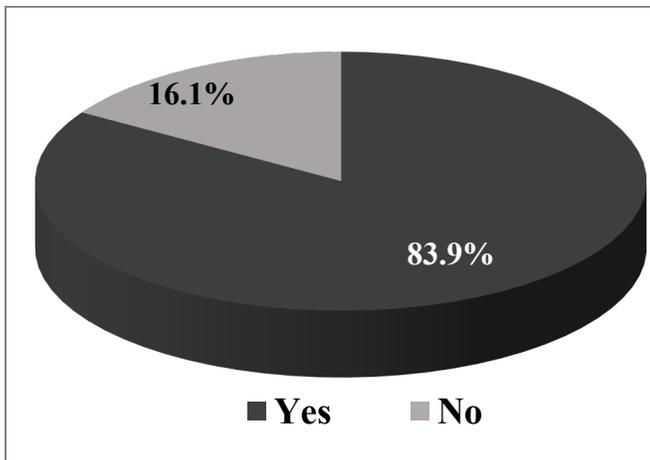


Figure 29. Percent of participants who feel safe hunting after sunset in Illinois (n = 497).

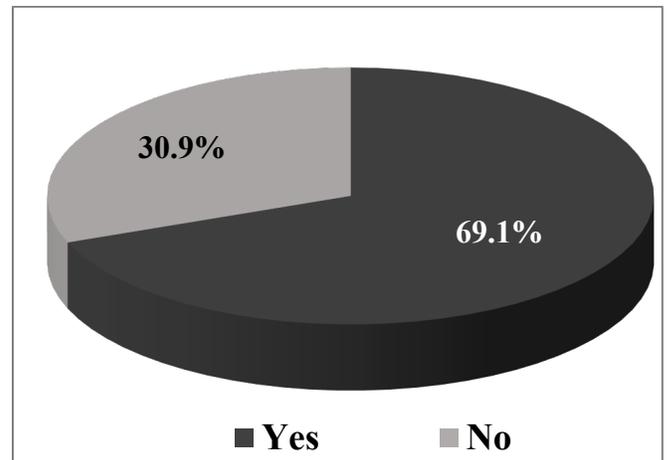


Figure 30. Percent of furbearer hunters who hunted after sunset during 2022-23 (n = 123).

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

Trappers were asked to identify if they observed any animals or signs of 4 species of special interest in Illinois during the 2022-23 trapping season. One in 20 (5.8%) license purchasers reported they sighted a badger (Figure 31), and 9.3% claimed to see signs of badgers (Figure 32). Whiteside, Champaign, Iroquois, Knox, and Lee were the counties in which sightings of badgers were reported most often. Signs of badgers were reported

most often from Whiteside, Champaign, Piatt, DeWitt, Iroquois (Table 33). Gray fox sightings were rarer than badger sightings; 19 in 20 trappers (94.4%) of trappers did not see a gray fox and 3.2% saw sign of gray fox (Figure 33). The counties where gray fox was sighted most often were Cook, Cumberland, Jersey, Livingston, Randolph, and Wayne (Table 34). Similarly, sightings of gray fox sign were most prevalent in those counties. Slightly more than a quarter of trappers reported seeing otter in the areas where they trap. One-quarter of trappers (26.8%) felt the number of otter signs they had witnessed had increased over the past 5 years (Figure 33). The counties with the most sightings of otter were Adams, Brown, Iroquois, Fayette, Fulton, McDonough, and Mason (Table 35). Almost 4 in 10 trappers had seen a bobcat and 1 in 3 trappers had seen sign of a bobcat. The counties with the most bobcat sightings were Adams, Fulton, Fayette, Jackson, Randolph, and Wayne (Table 36).

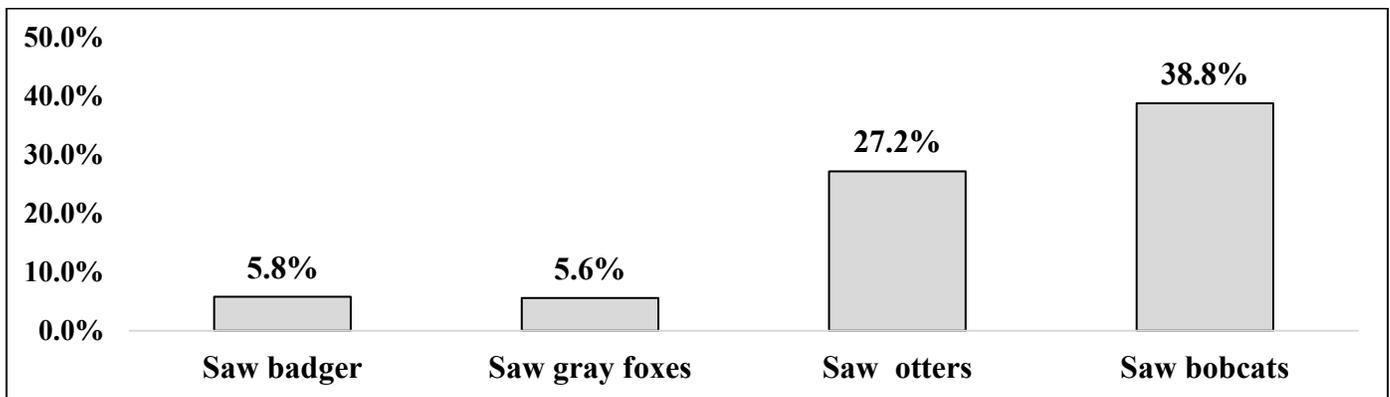


Figure 31. Percent of trappers who sighted species of special interest in Illinois ($n = 497$).

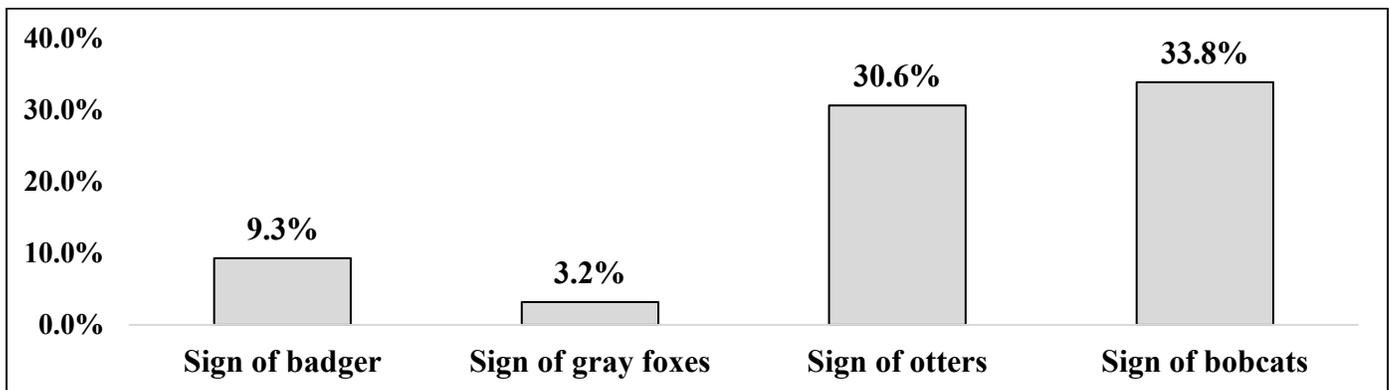


Figure 32. Percent of trappers who sighted signs of special interest species in Illinois ($n = 497$).

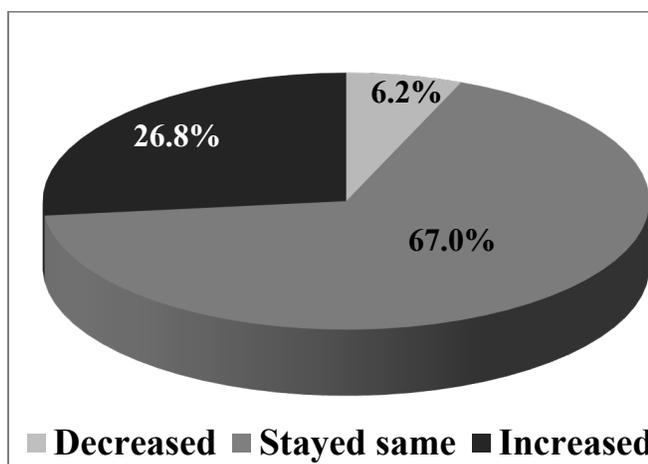


Figure 33. Trappers' opinion of the amount of otter sign witnessed over the past 5 years ($n = 534$).

One in 20 trappers (5.2%) reported catching a bobcat during 2022-23. Of those who caught a bobcat, 26.9% were actively targeting bobcats. A total of 75 bobcats were accidentally caught, a 10% increase from the previous year. The majority (90.7%) of incidentally caught bobcats were released. Most trappers who incidentally caught a bobcat trapped a single bobcat during the season, however 5 trappers (19.2% of incidental trappers) caught 5 or more bobcats over the season. When bobcats were incidentally caught the targeted species were most often coyote (73.1%), red fox (7.6%), and raccoon (3.8%). In 2015 there were an estimated 5,000 bobcats in southern Illinois. Trappers were asked if they felt there were fewer or more now in Illinois, 7.2% felt there were fewer, 28.6% felt it was still 5,000, and 64.2% thought there were more (Figure 34). Similarly over half (56.4%) felt that they see more signs of bobcat now as compared to 5 years ago. Twenty percent felt that they see far more signs of bobcat. Those who trapped in 2022-23 were more likely to want fewer bobcats over the next 5 years as compared to those who did not set traps in 2022-23. Most of both groups were neither satisfied or dissatisfied with the number of bobcats in Illinois, though a larger proportion of those who trapped were unsatisfied than those who did not set traps (Figure 37).

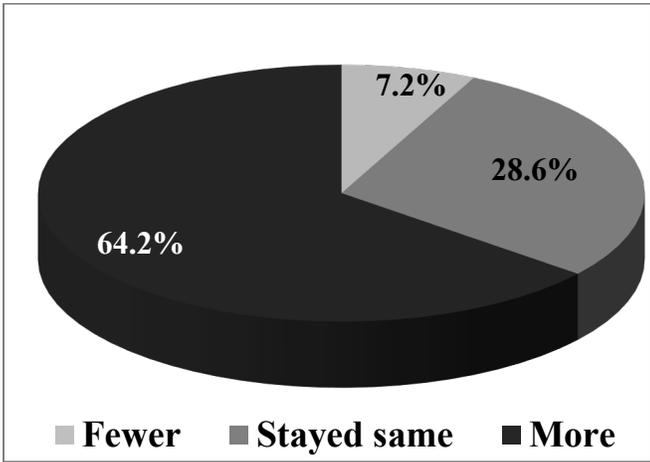


Figure 34. Trappers' opinion of the current number of bobcats in Southern Illinois as compared to 2015 ($n = 497$).

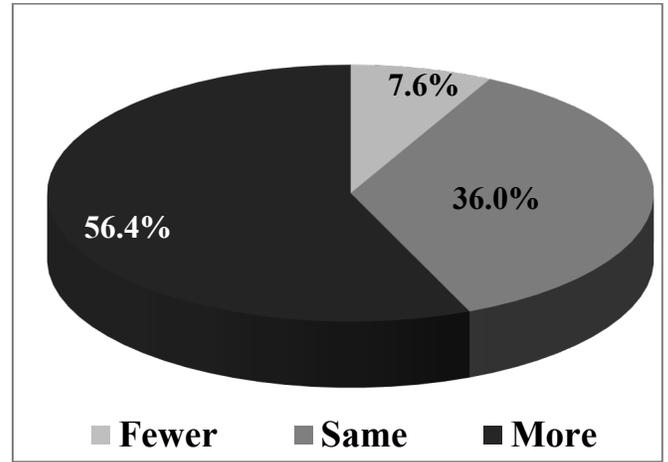


Figure 35. Change in the number of signs of bobcats trappers have seen over the last 5 years ($n = 497$).

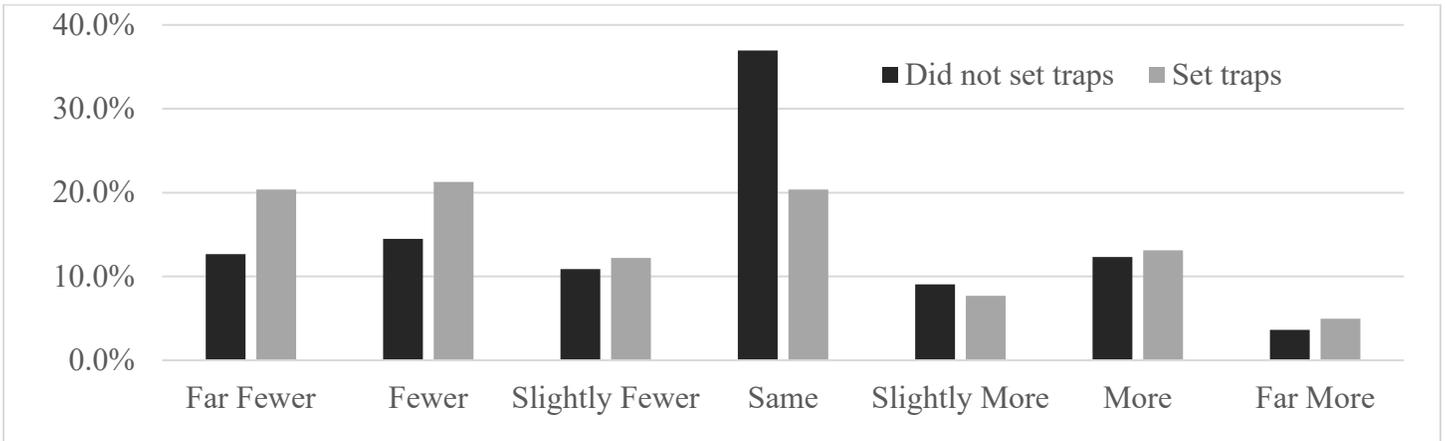


Figure 36. Respondents' preference for fewer or more bobcats over the next 5 years.

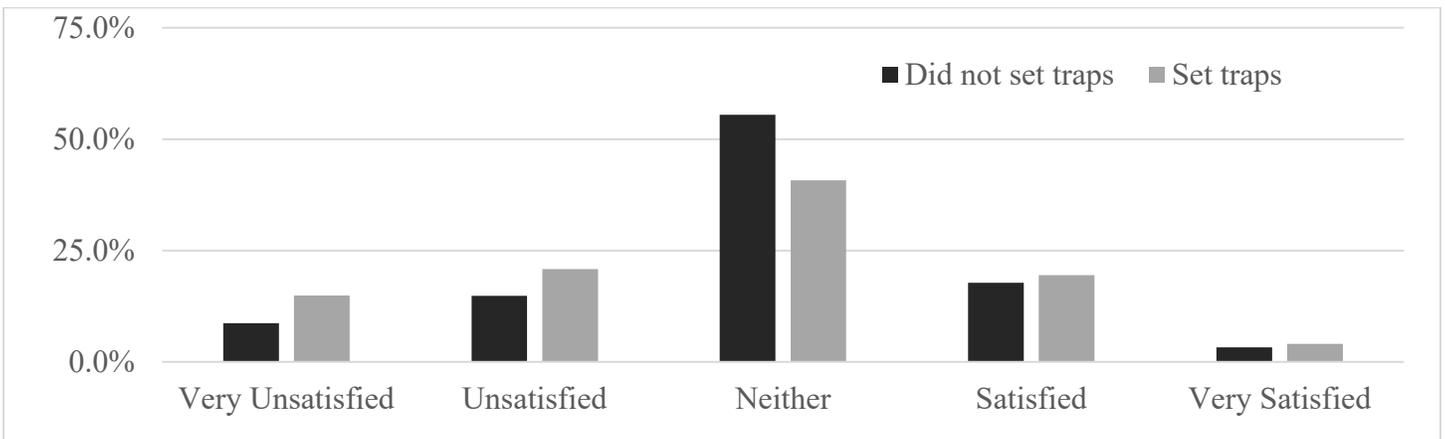


Figure 37. Respondents' satisfaction with the number of bobcats currently in Illinois.

Trap use and ownership

When asked about the traps currently owned and used 51.1% owned foot-hold traps, 49.1% trappers owned conibear traps, 36.0% cage style live traps, 7.0% owned modified foot-hold, and 6.8% owned snares. During the 2022-23 trapping season conibear, foot-hold, and cage type live traps were the used the most (Table 37). Dog proof traps were the most mentioned write-in type of trap, snake traps and drowning rigs were 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 2022-23 (leg hold traps, conibear, and cage type) and were not broken out for a separate analysis. For the 2022-23 season, thirty trappers purchased an average 9.7 foot-hold traps, 26 purchased an average 6.4 conibear, 8 purchased an average 4.4 cage style, 3 purchased an average 10 snares.

Trapping for Others

Over half (57.1%) of trappers had been asked to trap for someone (Figure 38) and almost half (43.7%) of those who did so in 2022-23. One third of trappers were often asked by landowners to trap their property and 39.4% were asked to do so sometimes (Figure 39). They were most often asked by landowners who wanted nuisance control for property damage (Figure 40). The species trappers were most frequently asked to target were raccoons, coyotes, beavers, muskrats (Figure 41).

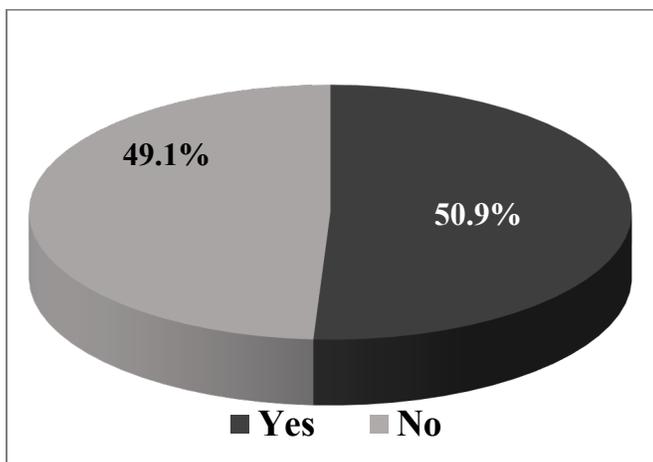


Figure 38. Percentage of respondents who have been asked by someone to trap a property ($n = 497$).

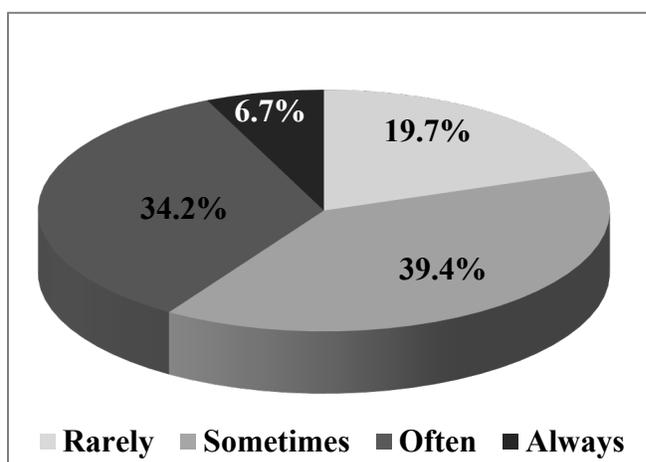


Figure 39. How often landowners ask trappers to target animals on their property ($n = 277$).

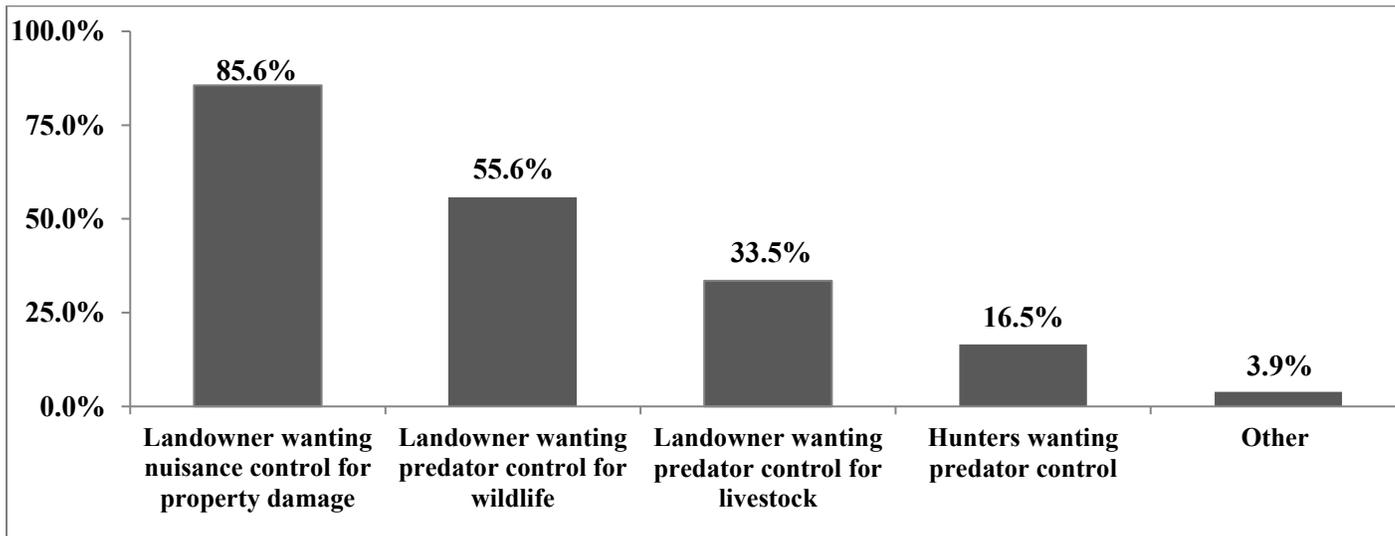


Figure 40. Reasons for which trappers were asked to set traps on property ($n = 284$).

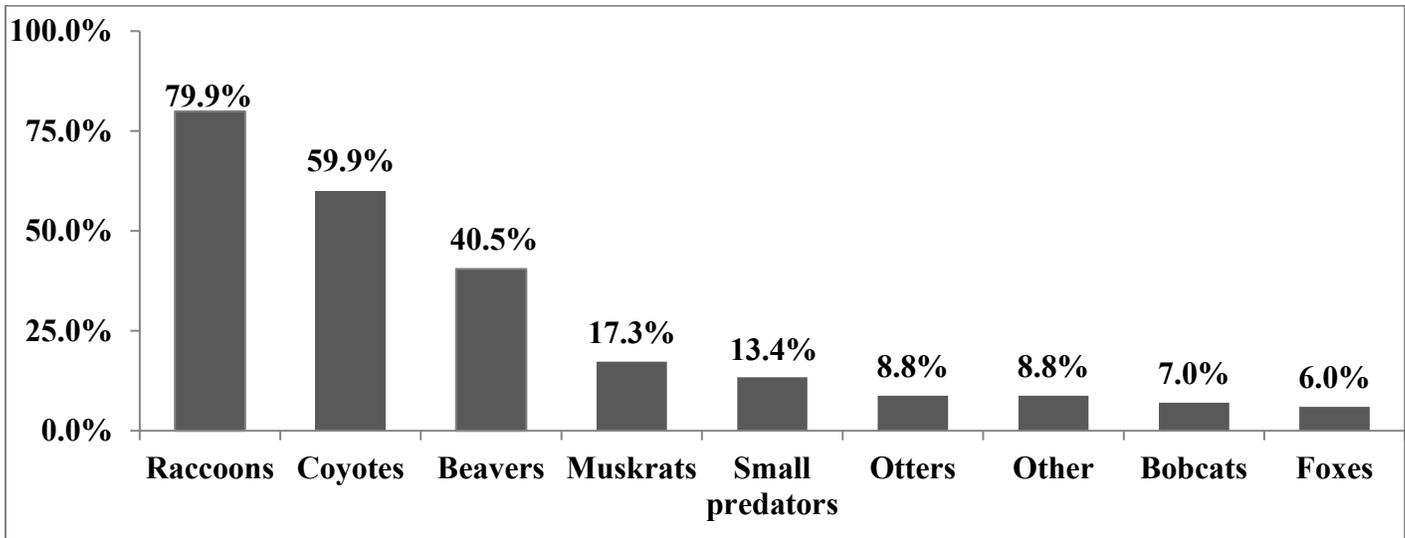


Figure 41. Species trappers were asked to target ($n = 284$).

General Information

More than half of trappers had lower expenses in 2022-23 than they do in a typical year (Figure 42). The most common expenses were fuel and licensing fees and a summary of expenses can be found in Table 38. Three percent of participants purchased a furbearer license in another state, predominately Missouri, Indiana, and Wisconsin. During the 2022-23 season, Illinois trappers averaged 54.0 years (± 16.1 , $n = 497$) of age and had been trapping in Illinois for an average of 24.4 years (± 20.2 , $n = 497$). The average age to start trapping was 23.7 (± 16.6 , $n = 497$) and almost half (47.7%) began trapping between 10 and 19 years old (Figure 43). Fifty-one percent of trappers (active and inactive) have ever mentored someone new to trapping (Figure 44). Twenty-one percent of trappers (active and inactive) know someone who does not currently trap but is interested in learning to do so (Figure 45). They knew of 193 people interested in learning to trap with an average age of 21.7 ($n = 193$). When asked about hunting license purchases, 90.7% of trappers had purchased one for the 2022-23 hunting season and 65.2% purchased their license online. Most, 64.4% were satisfied with their experience purchasing their permit online.

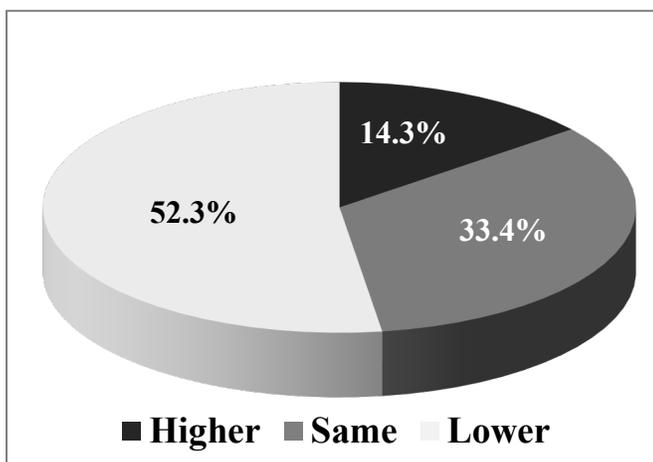


Figure 42. Percent of respondents whose spending for 2022-23 was the same, higher, or lower than a typical year.

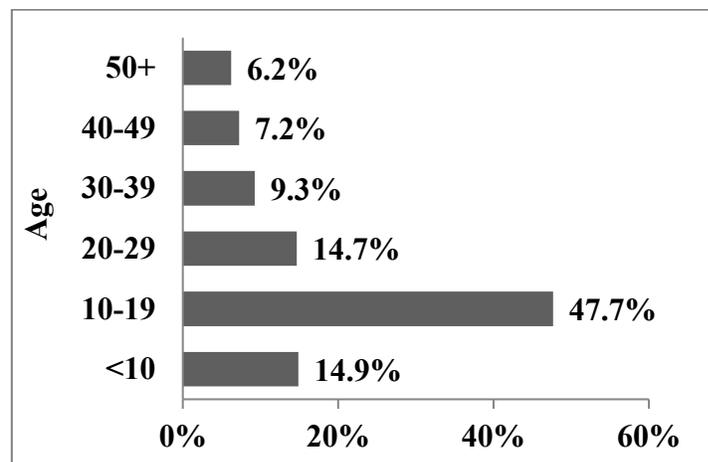


Figure 43. Age of trappers when they started trapping ($n = 497$).

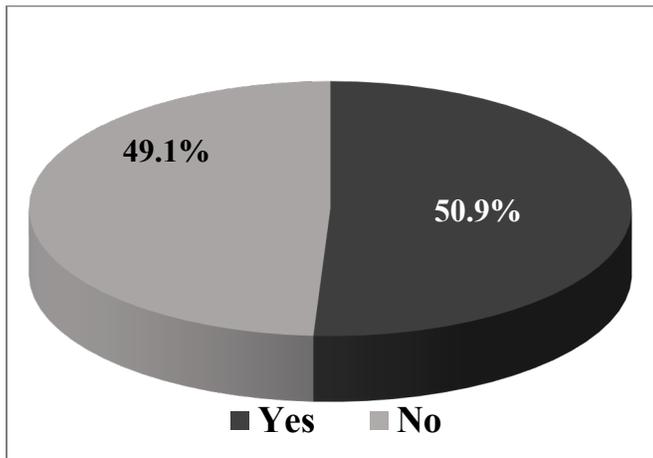


Figure 44. Percentage of respondents who have mentored a new trapper ($n = 497$).

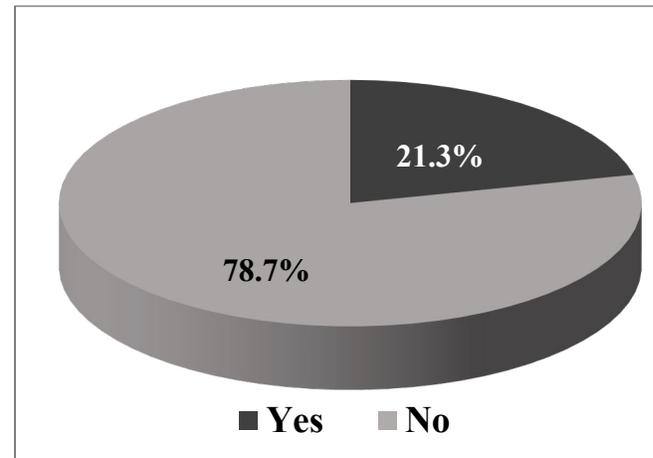


Figure 45. Percentage of respondents who know of someone who doesn't trap but is interested ($n = 497$).

Eighty-one percent of trappers ($n = 497$) indicated they had Internet access in their homes and 4 out of 5 (79.0%) with internet access had highspeed Internet. One in 5 trappers (20.9%) currently receive email announcements from IDNR, and 12.1% used to receive announcements but no longer do. Thirty-one percent have signed up for email announcements, and 37.8% have missed a permit deadline because they did not know it was due. Over half (52.9%) would use a free app to keep electronic copies of their permits and licenses. Similarly 62.6% would use an app to report harvests if it were available.

Forty-seven percent of trappers felt their trapping effort had decreased over the past 5 years, whereas 17.3% felt effort had increased. The counties which reported the greatest number of active trappers were Adams, Brown, Fulton, Jefferson, and Madison (Table 36). The highest densities of trapper residences were in Adams, Whiteside, McLean, Stephenson, Madison and Clinton counties (Table 37).

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, 2022-23 season ($n = 497$).

Species	Number of Reported Successful Trappers	% (Total Respondents)	Reported Harvest by Successful Trappers
Muskrat	69	13.9	1,144
Mink	27	5.4	88
Otter	35	7.0	90
Raccoon	171	34.4	4,913
Opossum	93	18.7	1,182
Red fox	22	4.4	54
Gray fox	0	0.0	-
Beaver	92	18.5	837
Striped skunk	58	11.7	268
Weasel	2	0.4	6
Coyote	73	14.7	652
Badger	3	0.6	4
Bobcat	7	1.4	7

Table 2. Distribution of reported furbearer harvest among successful trappers in Illinois based on responses to the 2022-23 Illinois Trapper Survey.

Total Season Catch	Percentage of Trappers												
	Muskrat (n=69)	Mink (n=27)	Otter (n=35)	Raccoon (n=171)	Opossum (n=93)	Red Fox (n=22)	Gray Fox (n=0)	Beaver (n=92)	Striped Skunk (n=58)	Weasel (n=2)	Coyote (n=73)	Badger (n=3)	Bobcat (n=7)
1-5	39.1%	88.9%	100.0%	22.2%	45.2%	95.5%	0.0%	47.8%	79.3%	100.0%	58.9%	100.0%	100.0%
6-10	24.6%	7.4%	0.0%	17.5%	23.7%	0.0%	0.0%	26.1%	12.1%	0.0%	20.5%	0.0%	0.0%
11-15	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	12.3%	6.5%	4.5%	0.0%	14.1%	1.7%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%
16-20	10.1%	0.0%	0.0%	7.6%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	3.4%	0.0%	8.2%	0.0%	0.0%
21-25	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%
>25	13.0%	3.7%	0.0%	35.1%	15.1%	0.0%	0.0%	5.4%	3.4%	0.0%	8.2%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 3. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of resident trappers in Illinois, 2022-23 ($n = 497$), 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	954 ± 213	13.9%	16.58 ± 8.42	15,809 ± 8,235	49.4%	7,808
Mink	373 ± 140	5.4%	3.26 ± 2.34	1,216 ± 914	38.6%	470
Otter	484 ± 158	7.0%	2.57 ± 0.51	1,244 ± 441	58.9%	732
Raccoon	2,363 ± 293	34.4%	28.73 ± 6.30	67,892 ± 16,087	37.0%	25,123
Opossum	1,285 ± 240	18.7%	12.71 ± 3.34	16,334 ± 4,940	13.3%	2,170
Red fox	304 ± 127	4.4%	2.45 ± 0.94	746 ± 391	42.6%	318
Gray fox	- ± -	-	- ± -	- ± -	-	-
Beaver	1,271 ± 239	18.5%	9.10 ± 2.57	11,566 ± 3,685	52.2%	6,039
Striped Skunk	801 ± 198	11.7%	4.62 ± 1.77	3,703 ± 1,581	20.1%	746
Weasel	28 ± 39	0.4%	3.00 ± 0.00	83 ± 109	0.0%	-
Coyote	1,009 ± 218	14.7%	8.93 ± 2.65	9,010 ± 3,098	47.7%	4,298
Badger	41 ± 48	0.6%	1.33 ± 0.65	55 ± 63	0.0%	-
Bobcat	97 ± 73	1.4%	1.00 ± 0.00	97 ± 67	14.3%	14

Table 4. Summary of 2022-23 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 69$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	111	11.6	1.2	9.0	995	10.6
Northeast Moraine	14	1.4	0.2	7.0	97	1.2
Mississippi Border-North	28	2.9	0.4	51.0	1,410	18.0
Mississippi Border-South	69	7.2	0.5	8.8	608	4.4
Western Prairie/Forest	97	10.1	0.7	13.7	1,327	9.2
Central Sand Prairie	14	1.4	0.3	10.0	138	3.3
Grand Prairie	332	34.8	0.6	22.4	7,435	14.1
Southern Plain	249	26.1	1.0	14.2	3,524	14.9
Wabash Border	14	1.4	0.2	10.0	138	2.0
Shawnee Hills	28	2.9	0.5	5.0	138	2.6
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	954	100.0	0.7	16.6	15,809	10.8

Table 5. Summary of 2022-23 MINK 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	41	11.1	0.4	2.7	111	1.2
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	28	7.4	0.4	2.0	55	0.7
Mississippi Border-South	69	18.5	0.5	2.4	166	1.2
Western Prairie/Forest	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	41	11.1	1.0	2.3	97	2.3
Grand Prairie	111	29.6	0.2	5.8	636	1.2
Southern Plain	69	18.5	0.3	2.0	138	0.6
Wabash Border	14	3.7	0.2	1.0	14	0.2
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	373	100.0	0.3	3.3	1,216	0.8

Table 6. Summary of 2022-23 OTTER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 35$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	28	1.2	0.3	1.5	41	0.4
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	14	0.6	0.2	2.0	28	0.4
Mississippi Border-South	55	2.3	0.4	1.3	69	0.5
Western Prairie/Forest	97	4.1	0.7	2.3	221	1.5
Central Sand Prairie	55	2.3	1.3	3.5	193	4.7
Grand Prairie	69	2.9	0.1	3.2	221	0.4
Southern Plain	97	4.1	0.4	2.4	235	1.0
Wabash Border	41	1.8	0.6	3.7	152	2.3
Shawnee Hills	28	1.2	0.5	3.0	83	1.6
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	484	20.5	0.3	2.6	1,244	0.9

Table 7. Summary of 2022-23 RACCOON trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 171$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	221	9.4	2.4	24.4	5,403	57.5
Northeast Moraine	28	1.2	0.3	4.5	124	1.5
Mississippi Border-North	193	8.2	2.5	31.3	6,053	77.1
Mississippi Border-South	235	9.9	1.7	35.6	8,360	61.1
Western Prairie/Forest	345	14.6	2.4	40.5	13,999	97.1
Central Sand Prairie	83	3.5	2.0	40.2	3,330	80.3
Grand Prairie	608	25.7	1.2	32.5	19,789	37.6
Southern Plain	484	20.5	2.0	16.3	7,891	33.3
Wabash Border	111	4.7	1.6	18.1	2,004	29.7
Shawnee Hills	55	2.3	1.1	17.0	940	18.0
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	2,363	100.0	1.6	28.7	67,892	46.5

Table 8. Summary of 2022-23 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 93$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	83	6.5	0.9	27.8	2,308	24.6
Northeast Moraine	28	2.2	0.3	9.5	263	3.2
Mississippi Border-North	55	4.3	0.7	6.0	332	4.2
Mississippi Border-South	138	10.8	1.0	18.0	2,487	18.2
Western Prairie/Forest	249	19.4	1.7	10.2	2,543	17.6
Central Sand Prairie	41	3.2	1.0	30.3	1,258	30.3
Grand Prairie	332	25.8	0.6	10.9	3,621	6.9
Southern Plain	304	23.7	1.3	10.2	3,095	13.0
Wabash Border	41	3.2	0.6	7.0	290	4.3
Shawnee Hills	14	1.1	0.3	10.0	138	2.6
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1,285	100.0	0.9	12.7	16,334	11.2

Table 9. Summary of 2022-23 RED FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 22$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	28	9.1	0.3	2.0	55	0.6
Northeast Moraine	14	4.5	0.2	2.0	28	0.3
Mississippi Border-North	41	13.6	0.5	1.0	41	0.5
Mississippi Border-South	28	9.1	0.2	2.5	69	0.5
Western Prairie/Forest	14	4.5	0.1	3.0	41	0.3
Central Sand Prairie	14	4.5	0.3	4.0	55	1.3
Grand Prairie	69	22.7	0.1	3.4	235	0.4
Southern Plain	69	22.7	0.3	2.8	193	0.8
Wabash Border	28	9.1	0.4	1.0	28	0.4
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	304	100.0	0.2	2.5	746	0.5

Table 10. Summary of 2022-23 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 0$).

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	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
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	0.0	-	-	0.0
Statewide	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0

Table 11. Summary of 2022-23 BEAVER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 92$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	111	8.7	1.2	4.3	470	5.0
Northeast Moraine	41	3.3	0.5	11.7	484	5.8
Mississippi Border-North	83	6.5	1.1	3.8	318	4.0
Mississippi Border-South	69	5.4	0.5	8.6	594	4.3
Western Prairie/Forest	124	9.8	0.9	7.7	954	6.6
Central Sand Prairie	41	3.3	1.0	5.0	207	5.0
Grand Prairie	442	34.8	0.8	11.1	4,906	9.3
Southern Plain	221	17.4	0.9	8.6	1,893	8.0
Wabash Border	83	6.5	1.2	9.0	746	11.1
Shawnee Hills	55	4.3	1.1	18.0	995	19.1
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1,271	100.0	0.9	9.1	11,566	7.9

Table 12. Summary of 2022-23 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 58$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	69	8.6	0.7	4.4	304	3.2
Northeast Moraine	14	1.7	0.2	8.0	111	1.3
Mississippi Border-North	28	3.4	0.4	1.5	41	0.5
Mississippi Border-South	97	12.1	0.7	2.6	249	1.8
Western Prairie/Forest	83	10.3	0.6	7.7	636	4.4
Central Sand Prairie	28	3.4	0.7	17.0	470	11.3
Grand Prairie	276	34.5	0.5	4.5	1,230	2.3
Southern Plain	138	17.2	0.6	2.5	345	1.5
Wabash Border	41	5.2	0.6	4.3	180	2.7
Shawnee Hills	28	3.4	0.5	5.0	138	2.6
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	801	100.0	0.5	4.6	3,703	2.5

Table 13. Summary of 2022-23 WEASEL trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 2$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	14	50.0	0.1	3.0	41	0.4
Northeast Moraine	14	50.0	0.2	3.0	41	0.5
Mississippi Border-North	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Mississippi Border-South	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
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	28	100.0	0.0	3.0	83	0.1

Table 14. Summary of 2022-23 COYOTE trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 73$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	97	9.6	1.0	5.0	484	5.1
Northeast Moraine	28	2.7	0.3	1.0	28	0.3
Mississippi Border-North	55	5.5	0.7	5.5	304	3.9
Mississippi Border-South	97	9.6	0.7	7.9	760	5.6
Western Prairie/Forest	124	12.3	0.9	10.3	1,285	8.9
Central Sand Prairie	55	5.5	1.3	14.0	774	18.7
Grand Prairie	263	26.0	0.5	8.5	2,225	4.2
Southern Plain	207	20.5	0.9	9.8	2,031	8.6
Wabash Border	69	6.8	1.0	14.6	1,009	15.0
Shawnee Hills	14	1.4	0.3	8.0	111	2.1
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1,009	100.0	0.7	8.9	9,010	6.2

Table 15. Summary of 2022-23 BADGER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 3$).

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	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	14	33.3	0.3	2.0	28	0.7
Grand Prairie	14	33.3	0.0	1.0	14	0.0
Southern Plain	14	33.3	0.1	1.0	14	0.1
Wabash Border	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	41	100.0	0.0	1.3	55	0.0

Table 16. Summary of 2022-23 BOBCAT trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 7$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	14	14.3	0.1	1.0	14	0.1
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	14	14.3	0.1	1.0	14	0.1
Western Prairie/Forest	14	14.3	0.1	1.0	14	0.1
Central Sand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	28	28.6	0.1	1.0	28	0.1
Southern Plain	28	28.6	0.1	1.0	28	0.1
Wabash Border	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Unknown	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Statewide	97	100.0	0.1	1.0	97	0.1

Table 17. Summary of 2022-23 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 69$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	539	56.5	0.7	19.6	10,558	66.8	12.9
South	415	43.5	0.6	12.7	5,251	33.2	8.2
Statewide	954	100.0	0.7	16.6	15,809	100.0	10.8

Table 18. Summary of 2022-23 MINK 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	221	59.3	0.3	4.1	898	73.9	1.1
South	152	40.7	0.2	2.1	318	26.1	0.5
Statewide	373	100.0	0.3	3.3	1,216	100.0	0.8

Table 19. Summary of 2022-23 OTTER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 35$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	263	11.1	0.3	2.5	649	1.0	0.8
South	221	9.4	0.3	2.7	594	0.9	0.9
Statewide	484	20.5	0.3	2.6	1,244	1.8	0.9

Table 20. Summary of 2022-23 RACCOON trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 171$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	1,368	57.9	1.7	34.6	47,371	69.8	57.9
South	995	42.1	1.5	20.6	20,521	30.2	31.9
Statewide	2,363	100.0	1.6	28.7	67,892	100.0	46.5

Table 21. Summary of 2022-23 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 93$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	691	53.8	0.8	13.9	9,632	59.0	11.8
South	594	46.2	0.9	11.3	6,702	41.0	10.4
Statewide	1,285	100.0	0.9	12.7	16,334	100.0	11.2

Table 22. Summary of 2022-23 RED FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 22$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	166	54.5	0.2	2.6	428	57.4	0.5
South	138	45.5	0.2	2.3	318	42.6	0.5
Statewide	304	100.0	0.2	2.5	746	100.0	0.5

Table 23. Summary of 2022-23 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 0$).

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	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0
Statewide	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0

Table 24. Summary of 2022-23 BEAVER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 92$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	774	60.9	0.9	9.3	7,186	62.1	8.8
South	497	39.1	0.8	8.8	4,381	37.9	6.8
Statewide	1,271	100.0	0.9	9.1	11,566	100.0	7.9

Table 25. Summary of 2022-23 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 58$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	415	51.7	0.5	6.3	2,626	70.9	3.2
South	387	48.3	0.6	2.8	1,078	29.1	1.7
Statewide	801	100.0	0.5	4.6	3,703	100.0	2.5

Table 26. Summary of 2022-23 WEASEL trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 2$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	28	100.0	0.0	3.0	83	100.0	0.1
South	0	0.0	0.0	#####	0	0.0	0.0
Statewide	28	100.0	0.0	3.0	83	100.0	0.1

Table 27. Summary of 2022-23 COYOTE trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 73$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	580	57.5	0.7	7.8	4,546	50.5	5.6
South	428	42.5	0.7	10.4	4,464	49.5	6.9
Statewide	1009	100.0	0.7	8.9	9,010	100.0	6.2

Table 28. Summary of 2022-23 BADGER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 3$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	41	100.0	0.1	1.3	55	100.0	0.1
South	-	0.0	0.0	#####	-	0.0	0.0
Statewide	41	100.0	0.0	1.3	55	100.0	0.0

Table 29. Summary of 2022-23 BOBCAT trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 7$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	69	71.4	0.1	1.0	69	71.4	0.1
South	28	28.6	0.0	1.0	28	28.6	0.0
Statewide	97	100.0	0.1	1.0	97	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, 2022-23 season ($n = 497$).

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	7,808	4,726	60.5	3,082	39.5	49%	57%
Mink	470	263	55.9	207	44.1	39%	51%
Otter	732	622	84.9	111	15.1	59%	28%
Raccoon	25,123	20,880	83.1	4,242	16.9	37%	36%
Opossum	2,170	2,100	96.8	69	3.2	13%	6%
Red fox	318	249	78.3	69	21.7	43%	10%
Gray fox	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Beaver	6,039	4,408	73.0	1,631	27.0	52%	40%
Striped skunk	746	691	92.6	55	7.4	20%	16%
Weasel	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Coyote	4,298	3,399	79.1	898	20.9	48%	30%
Badger	-	-	-	-	-	0%	66%
Bobcat	14	14	100.0	-	0.0	14%	0%
Total	47,717	37,353	78.3	10,364	21.7	37%	35%

Table 31. Estimated statewide harvest by resident Illinois trappers, 2007-2022.

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
2022	15,809	1,216	1,244	67,892	16,334	746	0	11,566	3,703	83	9,010	55	97	127,756

Table 32. Summary of fur hunting activities reported by trappers^a in Illinois, 2022-23.

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	61	11.5	32.4	1,031	16.9	12.3%	14,247	Adams, Fulton, Carroll
Opossum	9	17.8	14.4	64	7.1	1.8%	884	Fulton, Brown, Woodford
Red fox	9	19.9	3.6	4	0.4	1.8%	55	Fulton, Champaign, Effingham
Gray fox	5	23.4	0.0	-	0.0	1.0%	-	Wayne, Clark, Hancock
Bobcat	3	5.3	2.3	3	1.0	0.6%	41	Hancock, Jefferson, Pulaski
Woodchuck	3	3.3	4.3	9	3.0	0.6%	124	Brown, Stephenson, Kankakee
Coyote	88	13.8	23.9	827	9.4	17.7%	11,428	Fulton, Effingham, Macoupin
Skunk	4	22.0	4.3	17	4.3	0.8%	235	Calhoun, Hancock, Kendall
All species	123	13.7	34.8	1,955	15.9	24.7%	27,016	

^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 badger or signs of badger by the county in Illinois.

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

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

Table 35. Number of trappers who saw otter or signs of otter by the county in Illinois.

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

Table 36. Number of trappers who saw bobcat or signs of bobcat by the county in Illinois.

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

Table 37. Types of traps owned and used by Illinois trappers.

# of traps	Conibear traps (n = 244)		Foot-hold traps (n = 254)		Modified (padded) foot-hold traps (n = 35)		Cage type live traps (n = 179)		Snares (n = 34)		Other (n = 64)	
	Owned %	Set %	Owned %	Set %	Owned %	Set %	Owned %	Set %	Owned %	Set %	Owned %	Set %
0	-	42.6	-	39.0	-	54.3	-	59.8	-	64.7	-	26.6
1-10	39.8	38.9	32.7	36.6	54.3	31.4	92.2	38.0	47.1	26.5	28.1	37.5
11-20	16.8	10.2	14.6	14.6	5.7	14.3	5.0	2.2	32.4	8.8	15.6	12.5
21-30	14.3	4.5	11.4	4.7	31.4	-	1.1	-	8.8	-	26.6	12.5
31-40	5.7	0.8	5.9	1.2	2.9	-	-	-	2.9	-	4.7	3.1
41-50	7.8	1.2	10.6	2.4	2.9	-	-	-	-	-	15.6	6.3
51-100	9.4	1.6	16.9	1.2	2.9	-	1.7	-	5.9	-	9.4	1.6
>100	6.1	-	7.9	0.4	-	-	-	-	2.9	-	-	-

Table 38. Summary of Estimated Total Season Expenditures for Illinois trappers in 2022-23

Items purchased during an outing.	<i>n</i>	Mean	±	SD	Purchase Location		
Durable equipment used multiple seasons.	<i>n</i>	Mean	±	SD	Online %	Store in Illinois %	Store outside Illinois %
1. Automobile/ATV gas/oil	181	\$316.77	±	\$687.01			
2. Boat gas/oil	13	\$72.31	±	\$76.72			
3. Lodging (hotel, hunting lodge, campsite)	6	\$329.17	±	\$366.88			
4. Groceries/ice/beverages	77	\$109.55	±	\$171.71			
5. Restaurant or take-out meals	43	\$148.14	±	\$143.87			
6. Daily use fees	13	\$60.77	±	\$52.31			
7. Entertainment	2	\$37.50	±	\$17.68			
8. License fees	186	\$42.06	±	\$147.46			
9. Other	4	\$871.75	±	\$1,428.51			
10. Boat	10	\$13,260.00	±	\$17,279.88	-	80.0	20.0
11. Boat motor	10	\$2,987.50	±	\$3,890.43	-	90.0	10.0
12. Boat accessories	6	\$491.67	±	\$743.25	33.3	50.0	16.7
13. Dogs	13	\$1,698.46	±	\$1,913.12	7.7	69.2	23.1
14. Dog collars (GPS, trackers)	10	\$810.00	±	\$846.17	60.0	40.0	-
15. Dog kennels	10	\$1,012.50	±	\$1,483.11	-	100.0	-
16. Dog supplies (vest, food, etc.)	21	\$1,114.76	±	\$1,349.78	9.5	90.5	-
17. Clothing	71	\$283.94	±	\$339.26	36.6	57.7	5.6
18. Ammunition	130	\$111.38	±	\$150.75	6.2	90.8	3.1
19. Firearms	44	\$1,319.89	±	\$2,392.58	6.8	90.9	2.3
20. Decoys	7	\$180.00	±	\$205.83	71.4	28.6	-
21. Calls (including electronic)	32	\$309.22	±	\$516.80	53.1	37.5	9.4
22. Lures and bait	133	\$103.84	±	\$184.42	42.1	44.4	13.5
23. Traps	87	\$287.85	±	\$621.50	44.8	48.3	6.9
24. Trap supplies (swivels, stake, etc)	88	\$149.13	±	\$259.87	52.3	38.6	9.1
25. Stretchers	26	\$118.27	±	\$3,890.43	46.2	46.2	7.7
26. Knives and fleshing Tools	53	\$102.91	±	\$743.25	49.1	43.4	7.5
27. Lease	3	\$550.00	±	\$1,913.12	33.3	66.7	-
28. Other	5	\$2,550.00	±	\$846.17	-	100.0	-

Table 39. Distribution of active trappers by county trapped most in Illinois based on responses to the 2022-23 Illinois Trapper Survey ($n = 221$).

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

Table 40. Distribution of respondents by county of residence ($n = 497$).

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

Appendix A

Illinois Trapper Survey 2022-23 Season



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

I ILLINOIS
Illinois Natural History Survey
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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.

Section 1. Effort and Harvest. Please answer the following questions about your furbearer trapping and hunting activities during the 2022-23 trapping season in Illinois.

1. Did you set any **traps** for furbearers in Illinois during the 2022-23 trapping season? (Please select **one** response)

_____ Yes _____ No (If “No,” please go to **Question 11**)

2. Complete each blank for all species **trapped** in Illinois during the 2022-23 season. Report only **your** personal harvested catch. If you trapped with a partner, list only your half of the catch. **DO NOT include animals taken by hunting or any animals which were caught and released.**

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 back of the cover letter to answer questions 3 & 4.

3. In which county did you set traps most often during the 2022-23 trapping season?

_____ County

4. In which zone do you trap most often? _____ North Zone _____ South Zone

5. How many days (or nights) did you set traps during the 2022-23 trapping season? _____ Days (or Nights)

6. What was the average number of traps you set on your trapline during the 2022-23 season? _____ Traps

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ My own private property | _____ Public state property |
| _____ Private outfitter property | _____ Public federal property |
| _____ Private property not owned by me | _____ Private property owned by my family |

8. Did you sell any furs outside of Illinois? _____ Yes _____ No (If “No,” 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 select **one** response)

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

10. Did you sell any furs on the craft market? _____ Yes _____ No (If “No,” go to **Question 11**)

10a. What species did you sell on the craft market?

_____ Beaver _____ Mink _____ Ermine _____ Otter
_____ Coyote _____ Fox _____ Raccoon _____ Other (Please identify): _____

10b. In which of the following markets did you sell?

_____ Flea market _____ Local fairs and festivals _____ Facebook marketplace
_____ Etsy _____ Other (Please identify): _____

11. Has anyone ever asked you to trap on a property for them? _____ Yes _____ No (If “No,” skip to **Question 12**)

11a. Which of the following groups have asked you to set trap? (Please select **all** that apply)

_____ Landowner wanting predator control to protect wildlife
_____ Landowner wanting predator control to protect livestock
_____ Landowner wanting nuisance control for property damage (ponds, fields, etc.)
_____ Hunters/hunting club wanting predator/furbearer control
_____ Other (Please identify): _____

11b. How often are you asked to trap on someone else’s property? Circle which best describes your response.

Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
1	2	3	4

11c. Which of the following species have you been asked to target? (Please select **all** that apply)

_____ Coyotes _____ Foxes _____ Bobcats _____ Small predators (weasel, mink)
_____ Raccoon _____ Other (Identify): _____ _____ Other (Identify): _____

11d. Did you trap on any property during 2022-23 at the request of a landowner? _____ Yes _____ No

12. How many of the following types of traps did you use on your trap line during the 2022-23 season?

Type of trap	Number owned	Number set	Number purchased in 2022-23
Conibear or body-gripping traps	_____	_____	_____
Standard foot-hold traps	_____	_____	_____
Soft-catch or padded foot-hold traps	_____	_____	_____
Cage-type live traps	_____	_____	_____
Snares (Restricted to water use only)	_____	_____	_____
Other type (Please identify): _____	_____	_____	_____

Section 2. 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 or bow and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2022-23 season?
 Yes No (If “No,” please go to **Question 5**)

1a. On which type of land did you hunt furbearers? (Please select **one** response)

- My own private property Public state property
 Private outfitter property Public federal property
 Private property **not** owned by me Private property owned by my family

2. Did you hunt furbearers with dogs in Illinois during the 2022-23 season? Yes No

3. Please report your **hunting** effort and harvest in Illinois for the following furbearer species. Include only the days or nights that you hunted, game you observed (saw), and game you personally harvested in Illinois. 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 while hunting	Number Harvested by hunting	County Hunted <u>Most</u> Often
Raccoon				
Opossum				
Red Fox				
Gray Fox				
Bobcat				
Woodchuck				
Coyote				
Skunk				

4. Did you hunt furbearers after sunset during 2022-23 season? Yes No (If “No,” go to **Question 5**)

4a. Which of the following techniques or equipment did you use during your night hunt? (Please select **all** that apply)

- Thermal imaging equipment Electronic calls Hunting with dogs
 Hand-held or gun-mounted light Baiting Night vision equipment
 Other (Please identify): _____

4b. Which furbearer species did you target while hunting after sunset? (Please select **all** that apply)

- Raccoon Red Fox Gray Fox Bobcat
 Coyote Skunk Other (Please identify): _____

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

Section 3. Wildlife Sightings. Illinois wildlife biologists are interested in your observations of the following furbearer species. Information you provide will help IDNR manage Illinois wildlife to ensure healthy, sustainable populations.

1. Please use the table below to report your observations for the following species. Please provide the county(ies) where you observed animal signs or observed animals. If you saw no signs or no sightings of the species listed, please check "Did not observe."

		County where observed	County where observed
Signs of badger(s)	_____ Did not observe	_____	_____
Sightings of badger(s)	_____ Did not observe	_____	_____
Signs of gray fox(es)	_____ Did not observe	_____	_____
Sightings of gray fox(es)	_____ Did not observe	_____	_____
Signs of otter(s)	_____ Did not observe	_____	_____
Sightings of otter(s)	_____ Did not observe	_____	_____
Signs of bobcat(s)	_____ Did not observe	_____	_____
Sightings of bobcat(s)	_____ Did not observe	_____	_____

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

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

3. Did you catch any bobcats during 2022-23 season? ___ Yes ___ No (If "No," go to **Question 4**)

3a. How many bobcats did you catch? _____ caught

3b. How many did you release? _____ released

3c. Were you targeting bobcats when you trapped one? ___ Yes ___ No (If "Yes," go to **Question 4**)

3d. If you did not target bobcats, for what species were you trapping? _____

4. Please give your opinions about the number of **bobcats** in Illinois by circling the number that matches your response.

	Far Fewer	Fewer	Slightly Fewer	Same Number	Slightly More	More	Far More
In 2015, there were an estimated 5,000 bobcats in Southern Illinois, do you feel there are fewer or more bobcats currently in Illinois?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Over the next 5 years would you prefer fewer or more bobcats living in Illinois?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Over the past 5 years have you seen fewer or more signs of bobcats in the areas you trap?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

5. How satisfied are you with the number of bobcats in Illinois? Circle the number that best describes your response.

Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neither Unsatisfied or Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
------------------	-------------	----------------------------------	-----------	----------------

27. Lease \$ _____ .00 _____
28. Other (Please list): _____ \$ _____ .00 _____

2. Were your expenses in Illinois during the 2022-23 trapping season typical of past years?
____ Yes, about the same ____ No, this year was higher ____ No, this year was lower

3. Did you purchase a furbearer license in another state during the 2022-23 season?
____ Yes Please list states: _____
____ No

Section 5. Communication. Please answer the following questions about IDNR communication efforts.

1. Do you have internet access in your home? ____ Yes ____ No
1a. If “Yes,” do you have high-speed internet access? ____ Yes ____ No

2. Would you like reminders to renew your hunting license each year? ____ Yes ____ No
2a. If “Yes,” how would you like to be reminded? (Please select **all** that apply)
____ Text ____ Email ____ Social media

3. Would you like reminders about permit due dates? ____ Yes ____ No
3a. If “Yes,” how would you like to be reminded? (Please select **all** that apply)
____ Text ____ Email ____ Social media

4. Have you missed a permit application deadline because you did not know it was due?
____ Yes ____ No

5. Do you receive announcements from IDNR in your email?
____ Yes ____ Not now, but I used to get them ____ No

6. Did you sign up for email announcements from IDNR? ____ Yes ____ No

7. Would you use a free mobile-phone application provided by the IDNR to store an electronic copy (PDF) of permits and licenses instead of being required to have a paper copy?
____ Yes ____ No

8. Would you use a smart phone application to report harvests if it were available?
____ Yes ____ No

9. Did you purchase any Illinois hunting licenses/permits online for the 2022-23 hunting season?
____ Yes ____ No

9a. If “Yes,” please indicate your satisfaction with the overall experience of purchasing Illinois hunting licenses/permits online? Please circle the number that best matches your response.

Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neither	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
1	2	3	4	5

Section 6. 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. What is your county of residence? _____ County
3. How many years have you been trapping in Illinois? _____ Years
4. How old were you when you started trapping? _____ Years
5. Did you purchase an Illinois hunting license during 2022? _____ Yes _____ No
6. Have you ever mentored a new trapper? _____ Yes _____ No
7. Do you know of anyone who does not trap, but is interested in trapping?
 Yes What are their ages? _____
 No
8. In the **past 5 years** has your trapping effort for **any species**: (Please select **one**)
 Increased Stayed the same Decreased

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 2022-23 trapping season in Illinois.

Even if you were not successful or did not trap in Illinois during the 2022-23 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 <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/>. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at <http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/>.

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,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



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,

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 2022-23 trapping season in Illinois.

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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,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



Appendix E



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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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



Appendix F

FURBEARER TRAPPING REGULATIONS						
SPECIES	ZONE	DATES	LIMIT	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS		
Raccoon	Statewide	10 Nov 2022 - 15 Feb 2023	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 2022 - 31 Mar 2023	None			
River Otter	Statewide	10 Nov 2022 - 31 Mar 2023	5 per person per season			
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	Statewide	1 Jun - 30 Sep 2022	None			

FURBEARER HUNTING REGULATIONS			
SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Raccoon Opossum Fox (Red and Gray) Bobcat	10 Nov 2022 - 15 Feb 2023	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
Woodchuck	1 Jun 2022 - 31 Mar 2023 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 sunset	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.
Coyote	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 2022 - 15 Mar 2023	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			There is no limit on foxes, coyote, opossum, raccoon, striped skunk and woodchuck.