



New Jersey Furbearer Management Newsletter Fall 2013

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
Upland Wildlife and Furbearer Project



Dates to Remember-

Trapper Education courses are scheduled in September and October each year. Check the Trapping Information page on the Division's Website for information.

Remember:

- To trap or use a snare a person must have first passed a Fish and Wildlife-approved trapper education course which included use of snares.
- Any person must be at least 12 years of age in order to take the NJ Trapper Education course.
- TAKE A KID TRAPPING!

Regulation Changes or Additions for Furbearer Trapping or Hunting for the 2013-14 Hunting and Trapping Seasons-



Trapping:

- The maximum diameter of the cable or wire on **restraining snares** is expanded up to 3/16-inch.
- The Conservation ID Number (known as the CID) is added to the list of identification methods trappers may use to label their trap sets.
- Recreational trapping permits for beaver are increased from 186 to 200. Site-specific beaver permits will no longer be issued. Beaver Damage Control Permits will replace Site-specific permits. Beaver Damage Control Permits are not limited by permit quota as Site-specific beaver permits were.
- Recreational trapping permits for river otter are increased from 106 to 115. Otter permit quotas were adjusted in most zones to allow an open trapping season in all 30 zones.

Hunting:

- Beginning in spring 2014, a New Jersey turkey hunter with a legal turkey permit will be able to take a coyote incidental to spring turkey hunting.
- ONLY for Coyote: (Night or daytime)** Special Coyote Permit Season required.
 - Shot: Not smaller than BB or larger than #4 Buck. Pellets must be lead or a tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid.
- ONLY for Coyote: (Daytime only)**, Special Coyote Permit required, rifle permit required in possession when hunting with any legal rifle,
 - Centerfire rifles: From .17 to maximum of .25 caliber with soft point or hollow point bullets and maximum of 80 grains.
 - Rimfire rifles: From .17 to maximum of .22 caliber with soft point or hollow point bullets and maximum of 50 grains.

2012-13 New Jersey Trapper Harvest Survey

A 2012-13 New Jersey Trapper Harvest Survey was mailed to 1195 licensed trappers requesting harvest, recreational and socio-economic information for the 2012-13 trapping season. Seventeen surveys were returned as undeliverable and 450 responses were received by May 15, 2013 (38.2 % response rate). A total of 94.7% of the New Jersey trappers are male, 2.6% female. The average age of the New Jersey trapper is 47.1 years old.

Summary of participation:

Species	Number of 2012-13 active respondents	Estimated number of active trappers	Mean experience (years)	Mean days active	Estimated total effort (trap-nights)	Reported (or estimated) capture
Beaver	64	170	8.60	15.35	14,098.22	708**
Coyote	76	202	5.91	40.80	189,291.69	243**
Gray fox	38	101	14.74	38.06	108,054.39	164
Mink	94	250	14.82	36.00	231,864.29	1,086
Muskrat	156	414	23.72	29.56	485,808.46	21,229
Nutria	0	Unknown				0
Opossum	72	191	17.25	43.69	106,564.73	1,121
Raccoon	189	502	17.17	35.85	337,718.29	6,159
Red fox	162	430	14.65	42.93	641,318.48	5,967
River otter	24	64	13.00	24.00	1,465.87	52**
Skunk	34	90	15.85	39.85	44,139.98	295
Weasel	1	3	43.00	0.00	0.00	5
Total	286	759				37,043
Beaver						911
Coyote						489
River otter						53

**Actual harvest total, not estimated

Summary of Fur Pelt Values from 2012-13 Trapper Survey respondents

Species	Estimated value (US\$)	Average pelt price (US\$)	% Trappers	Recreation days	Trap-nights to harvest	% Resp trapping resident county
Beaver	\$ 17,293.54	\$ 24.43	22.4%	2,609	19.9	0.73
Bobcat		-	2.8%	0	0.0	
Coyote	\$ 6,337.65	\$ 26.08	26.6%	8,234	779.0	0.85
Fisher		-				
Gray fox	\$ 4,811.01	\$ 29.40	13.3%	3,841	660.3	0.94
Mink	\$ 23,582.17	\$ 21.71	32.9%	8,986	213.5	0.84
Muskrat	\$ 205,292.41	\$ 9.67	54.5%	12,245	22.9	0.83
Nutria		-				
Opossum	\$ 2,819.87	\$ 2.52	25.2%	8,353	95.1	0.80
Raccoon	\$ 75,836.12	\$ 12.31	66.1%	17,995	54.8	0.88
Red fox	\$ 213,676.24	\$ 35.81	56.6%	18,470	107.5	0.82
River otter	\$ 3,357.71	\$ 64.57	8.4%	1,530	28.2	0.00
Skunk	\$ 2,417.09	\$ 8.20	11.9%	3,598	149.7	0.92
Weasel	\$ -	\$ -	0.3%	0	0.0	1.00
Total	\$ 555,423.81			85,860		

Fur Prices from Space Farms Fur Sale- March 24, 2013
(For comparison)

Species	Average Price Per Pelt
Beaver	\$29.90
Black Muskrats	\$12.52
Raccoon	\$19.61
Coyote	\$19.28
Fem. Mink	\$18.97
Gray Fox	\$35.18
Male Mink	\$29.68
Muskrat	\$12.07
Otter	\$94.70
Opossum	\$3.62
Red Fox	\$44.41
Skunk	\$6.52
Weasel	\$5.00

Age class of licensed NJ trappers (2012-13 trapping season)

Age Class	Licensed trappers (2012-13)	Percent of licensed trappers (2012-13)
<16	58	4.85%
16 to 19	42	3.51%
20 to 24	35	2.93%
25 to 29	60	5.02%
30 to 34	68	5.69%
35 to 39	85	7.11%
40 to 44	123	10.29%
45 to 49	165	13.81%
50 to 54	146	12.22%
55 to 59	123	10.29%
60 to 64	112	9.37%
65+	178	14.90%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Total	1195	100%

Fur Handling Tips- Tips for Freezing Fur

Freezing/storing fur for less than a month-

- Freeze each pelt flat which allows them to freeze and thaw faster.
- Lay the pelts on newspaper or freezer paper (so hides won't stick together or to other things in the freezer) until they're frozen.
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Freezing/storing fur for more than a month-

- Always be sure all pelts are dry and cleaned of debris before freezing. Try to freeze only dry pelts. Wet pelts are messy to thaw and look that way.
- Roll individual pelts tightly- from the nose to the tail. Put each pelt into a plastic bag, seal the bag and place it in the freezer. Try to keep the air in each bag to a minimum, the tighter the seal the better. Ziploc type bags are best. Leave them in the freezer until solid.
- As noted above, spread pelts out in the freezer until they freeze solid. Don't stack unfrozen pelts on top of one another. Freeze as fast as possible to avoid spoilage.
- Thaw the pelts slowly over a period of a day or two. Thaw in a cool, dry area like a shed or garage. Make sure to take plastic wrappers off any pelts. Unroll the pelts as they thaw, but don't force them as you'll rip out guard hairs downgrading the fur value.

Remember, when you freeze green pelts you always risk losing some of their value. Spoilage, thawing, handling, freezer burn and breakage of guard hairs can damage pelts.



Please Remember to Report Your Coyotes!

Coyotes harvested by any method must be reported to a New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Regional Law Enforcement office within 24 hours.

Regional NJ Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Office phone numbers:

Northern Region Office 908-735-8240
Central Region Office 609-259-2120
Southern Region Office 856-629-0555

New Jersey Fishers



Please report any fisher captures-

- Call: 877-WARNDEP (877-927-6337)

There haven't been any fishers caught in snares or conibears by New Jersey trappers- at least not yet. Reports of road-killed and of box-trapped "fishers" have been received however and the box-trapped "fishers" were examined in the trap. Thus far the reported box-trapped "fishers" have turned out to be either mink or weasel. The road-kills turned out to be mink, usually big males.

Photos of fishers have been taken over the last few years; several by trail cameras in northern Sussex County and one photographed in a tree in northern Warren County.

Please report the capture of any bobcat.

- Call: 877-WARNDEP (877-927-6337)

