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University of Illinois at  
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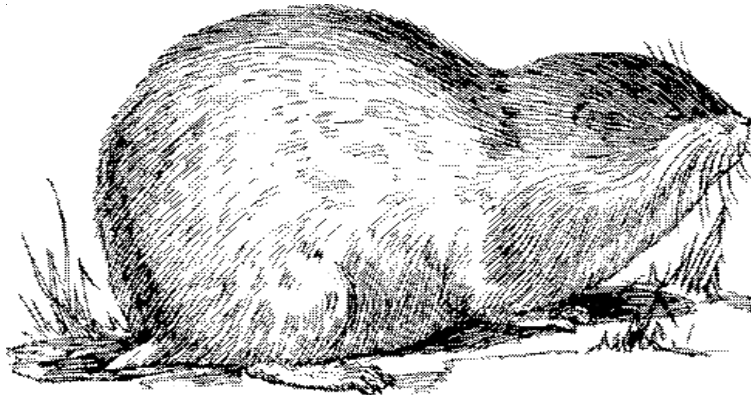
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# Illinois Trapper Report: Harvest, Effort, and Trapper Education Courses



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<sup>a</sup> WMU = Wildlife Management Unit

<sup>b</sup> FMZ = Furbearer Management Zones

2013-2014  
ILLINOIS TRAPPER REPORT:  
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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND  
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-23  
STUDY 101  
JOB NO. 101.2

Prepared by  
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Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration  
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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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## **ABSTRACT**

A random sample of 1,200 persons who purchased a 2013 resident Illinois trapping license was generated from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources licensing database. Licensees were mailed a 4-page questionnaire, and we received 748 (64%) questionnaires. Trapping license sales increased 23% from 2012 (6,320 licenses) to 2013 (7,782). Trappers set an average of 18.5 traps for an average of 27.8 days or nights during the 2013-2014 season, and they harvested an estimated 251,178 furbearers (up 29% from the 195,360 harvested in 2012-2013). An estimated 151,367 raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) were trapped by trappers during the 2013-2014 Illinois trapping season, an increase of 44% from the estimated 104,947 trapped during the 2012-2013 season. Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) harvest was the next highest at 34,208 opossums trapped (47% increase from previous year). Sightings of bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) by trappers, and harvest of furbearers by hunting, were also documented.

## **OBJECTIVE**

To survey furbearer (11 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 (2013-2014) was selected from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) license sales database. Each trapper was mailed a 4-page questionnaire (Appendix A), cover letter (Appendix B), and a postage-paid return envelope on 24 March 2014. The initial sample of 1,200 licenses was reduced to 1,167 due to undeliverable addresses. Nonrespondents were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) on 08 April 2014. Remaining nonrespondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 22 April 2014. Trappers

who did not respond to the previous mailings were mailed a second thank you/reminder postcard on 06 May 2014. Season date information can be located in Appendix E.

## RESULTS

A total of 748 license purchasers responded to the survey. Of these, 733 were considered usable, resulting in a 64% response rate. Using procedures adopted by Anderson and Campbell (1992), we calculated trapper participation and harvest for all furbearer species in Illinois (Tables 1-27). The results were organized by wildlife management units (WMUs, Appendix F), furbearer management zones, and statewide for presentation.

### *Trapper Participation*

Of the 733 license purchasers in our sample, 509 (69%) set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2013-2014 season (Figure 1). Active trappers set an average of 18.5 traps for an average of 27.8 days or nights (Figure 2). The maximum number of days a trapper could have trapped was 147; 27.1% set traps for > 30 days and 16.7% of trappers set traps for > 45 days (Figure 3).

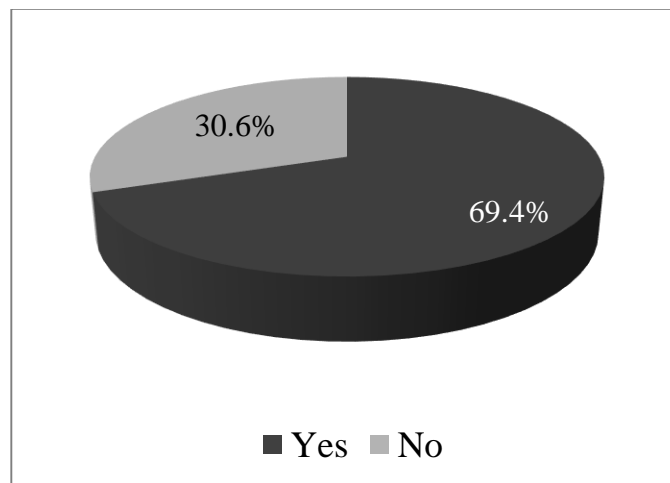


Figure 1. License purchasers that set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2013-14 trapping season ( $n=733$ ).

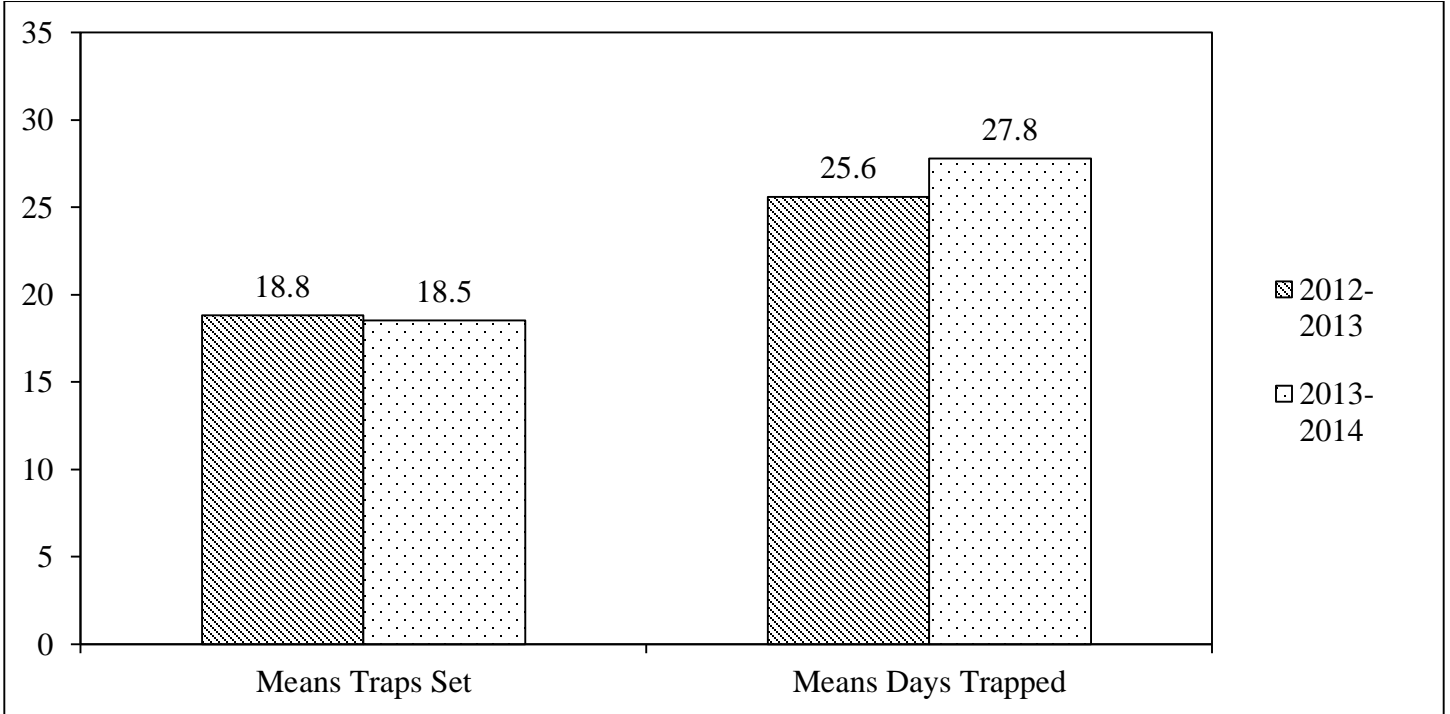


Figure 2. Trapping activity reported by respondents to the 2013-2014 Illinois Trapper Survey ( $n=509$ ), and a comparison to the previous year's (2012-2013) estimates.

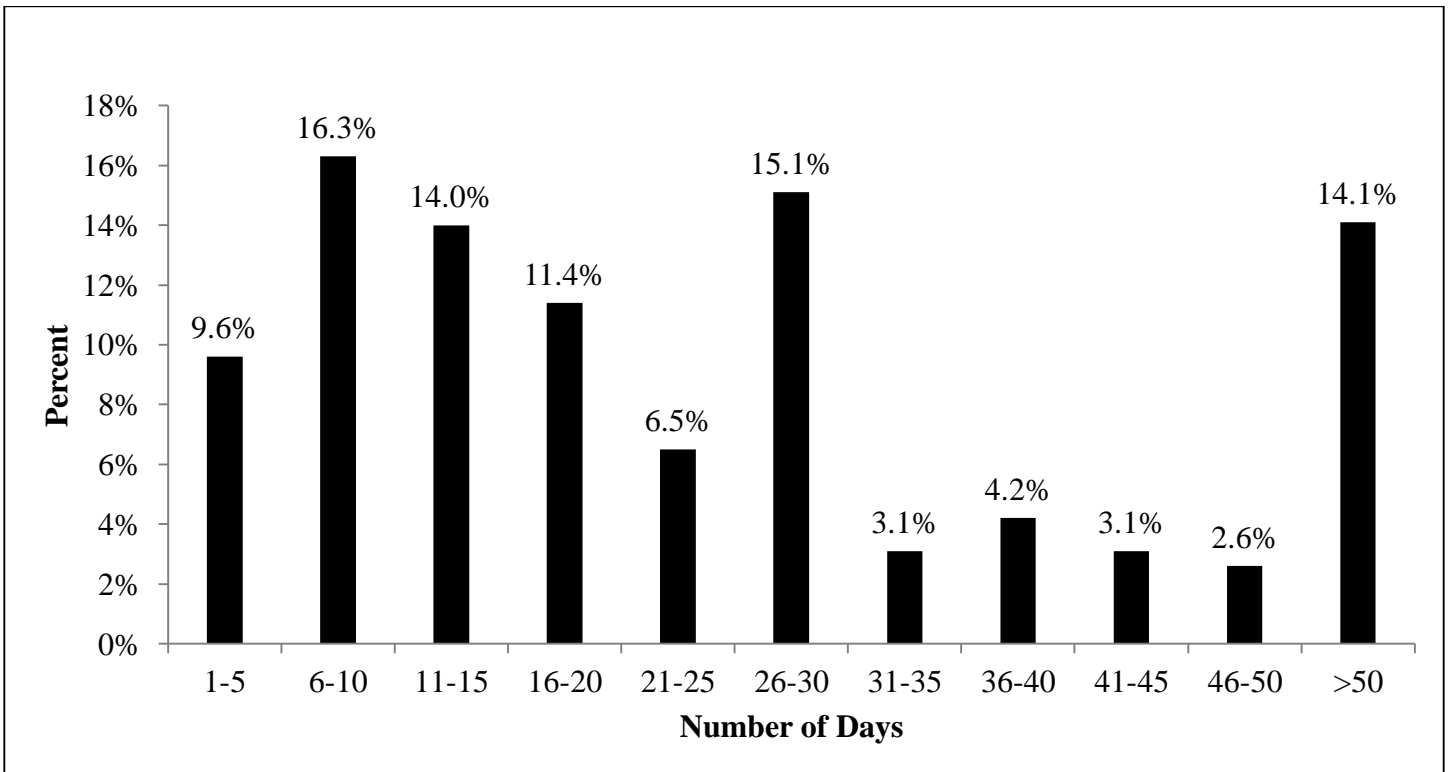


Figure 3. Distribution of days of trapping by active trappers in Illinois, 2013-2014 season ( $n=509$ ).

Participation during the 2013-2014 season was highest among raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) trappers, estimated at 4,799 trappers statewide (Table 3), an increase of 28% from the 2012-2013 trapping season (Miller et al. 2013). Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) trapping was second in participation with 2,697 trappers, followed by muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*; 1,954), coyote (*Canis latrans*; 1,741 trappers), and beaver (*Castor canadensis*; 1,677 trappers). Badger (*Taxidea taxus*; 138 trappers), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*; 64 trappers), and weasel (*Mustela frenata* and *nivalis*; 32 trappers) were the least often targeted species by trappers. Approximately 18% of respondents reported they attempted to trap otters during the 2013-2014 season. Additional information regarding otter harvest during the 2013-14 trapping season can be found in the 2013-2014 Illinois Otter Trapper Report (Stephenson et al. 2014).

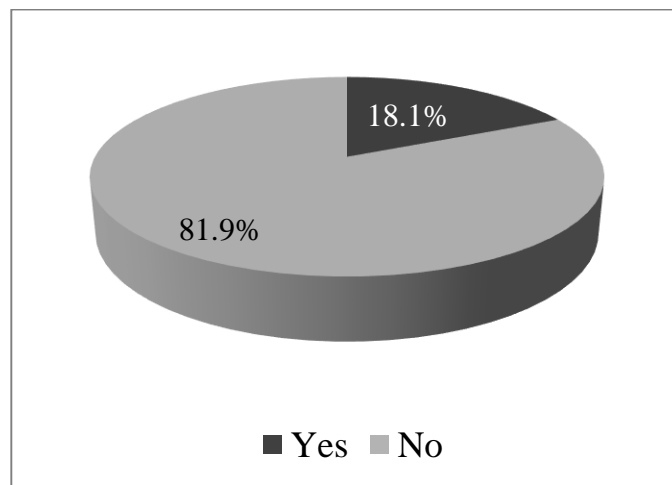


Figure 4. People who attempted to trap otters during the 2013-14 trapping season ( $n=510$ ).

### ***Harvest***

An estimated 151,367 raccoons were trapped by trappers during the 2013-2014 Illinois trapping season, which was an increase of 44% from the estimated 104,947 trapped during the 2012-2013 season (Table 3). Opossum harvest was the next highest at 34,208 opossums trapped (47% increase from previous year), followed by muskrat (32,467; 4% decrease from previous year), coyote (13,314; 22% increase from previous year), beaver (9,874; 23% decrease from previous year), striped skunk (5,022; 2% decrease from previous year), and mink (3,005; 12% increase from previous year). The number of muskrats harvested averaged 16.6 per trapper



and ranged from 1-221 (Figure 5), and the number of raccoons harvested averaged 31.5 per trapper and ranged from 1-476 (Figure 6). Confidence intervals (95%) for trapper participation and harvest of each species are presented in Table 3.

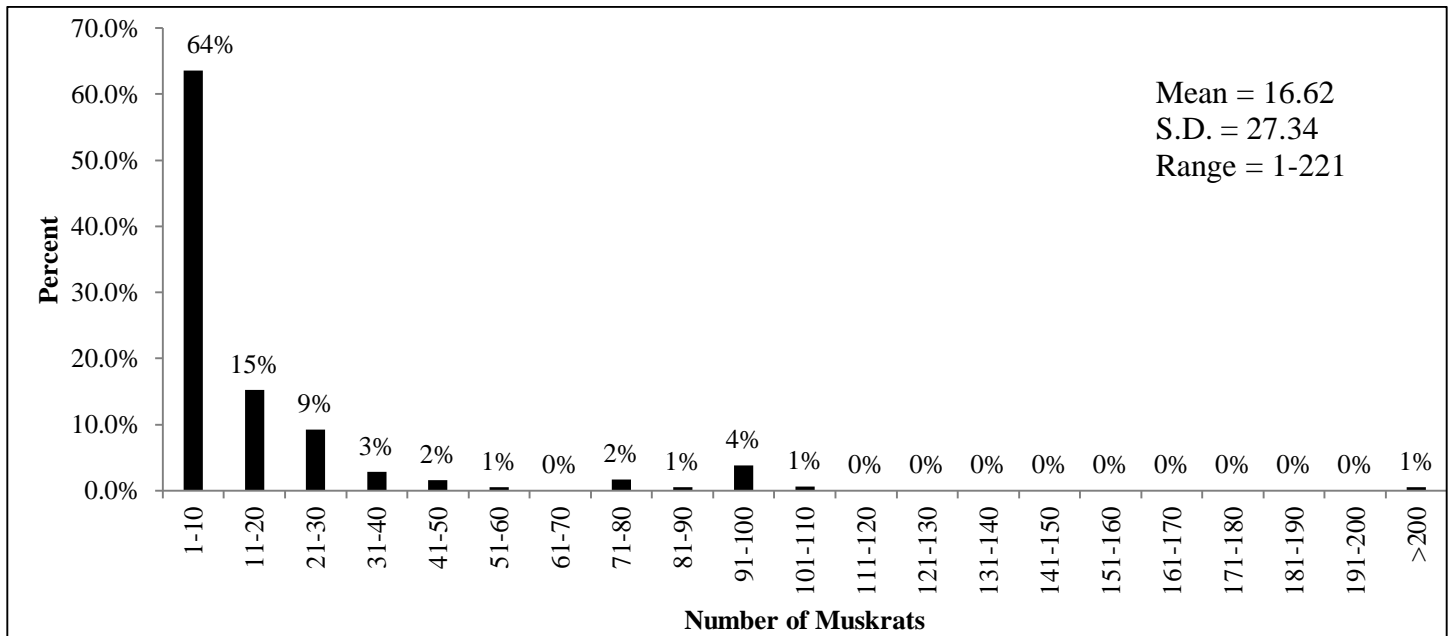


Figure 5. Distribution of the number of muskrats trapped per successful muskrat trapper in Illinois, 2013-2014 season ( $n=184$ ).

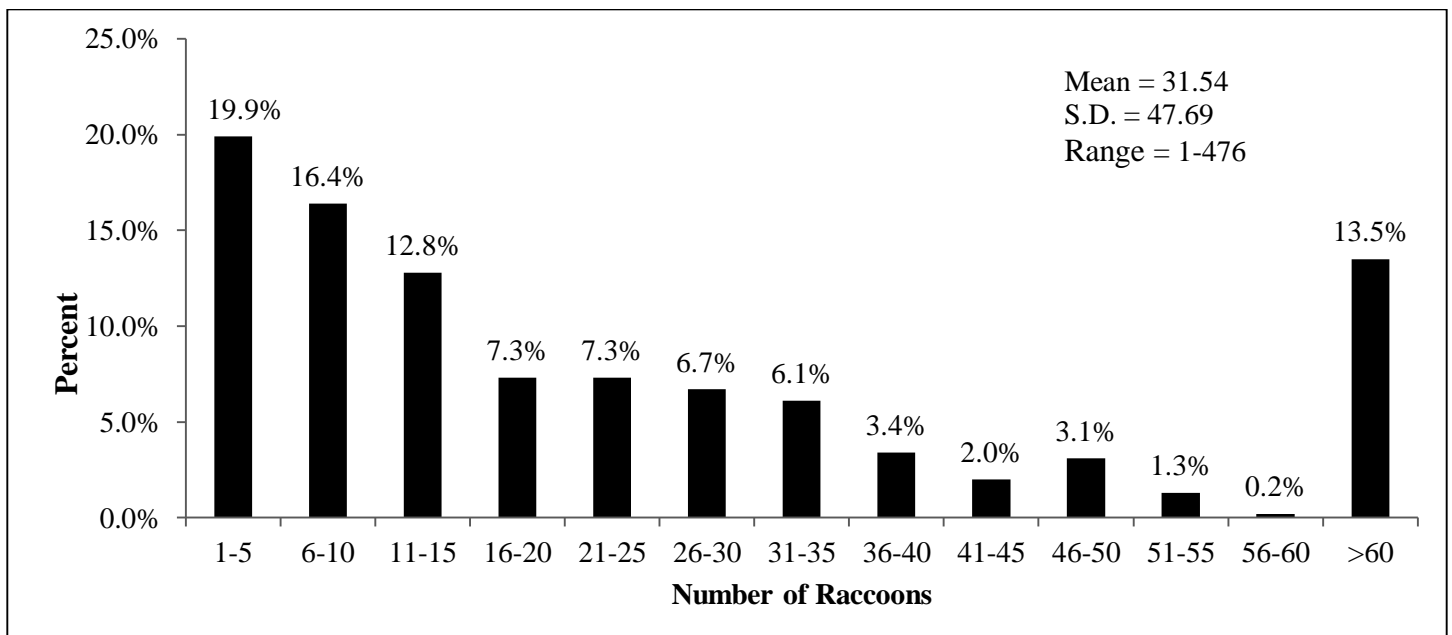


Figure 6. Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per successful raccoon trapper in Illinois, 2013-2014 season ( $n=452$ ).

The total 2013-2014 trapper harvest increased from 195,360 in 2012 to 251,178 (Figure 7). Harvest and trapping effort for each species are reported by wildlife management unit and furbearer management zones in Tables 4-25. The estimated number of pelts sold in 2013-2014 is presented by species in Table 26. The trends in statewide harvests of furbearers for the previous 10 years can be located in Table 27.

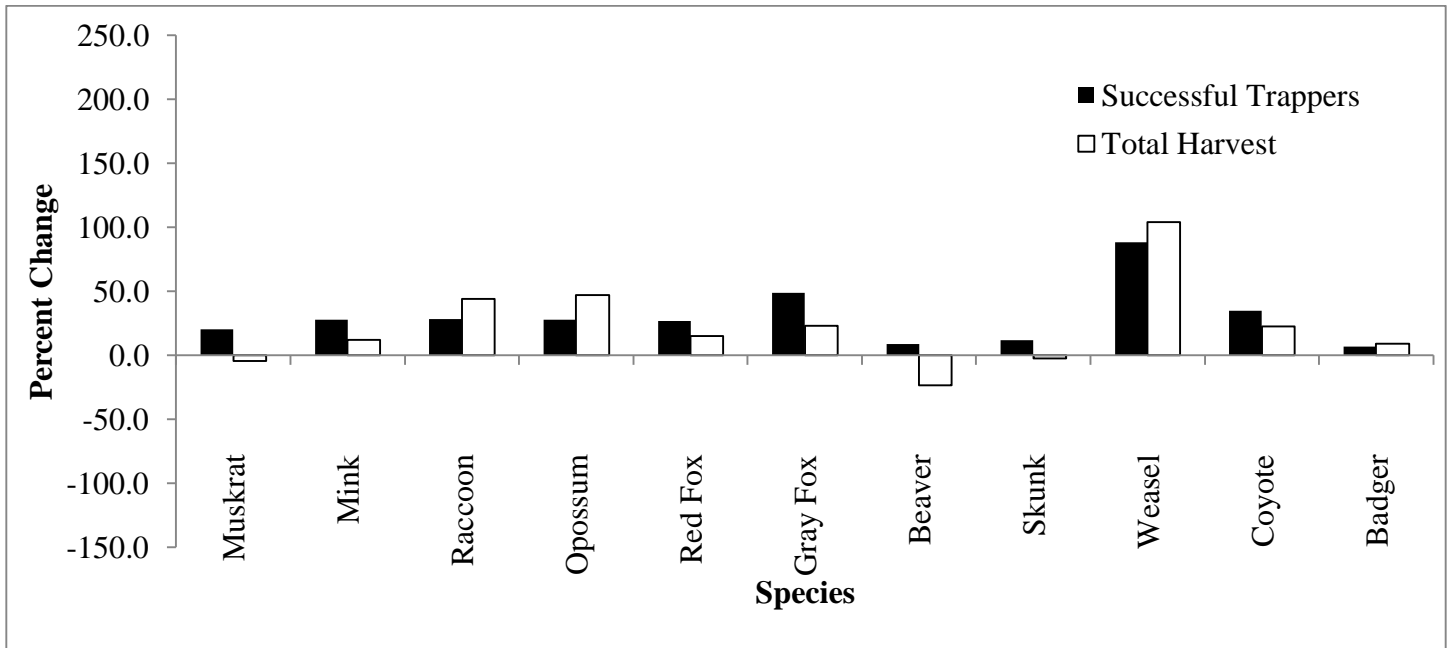


Figure 7. Percent change in number of successful trappers and harvest by species between 2012 and 2013 license years.

***Extended Season for Mink and Muskrat***

About 6% of trappers utilized the extended spring season for mink and muskrat, harvesting 223 mink and 1,529 muskrat.

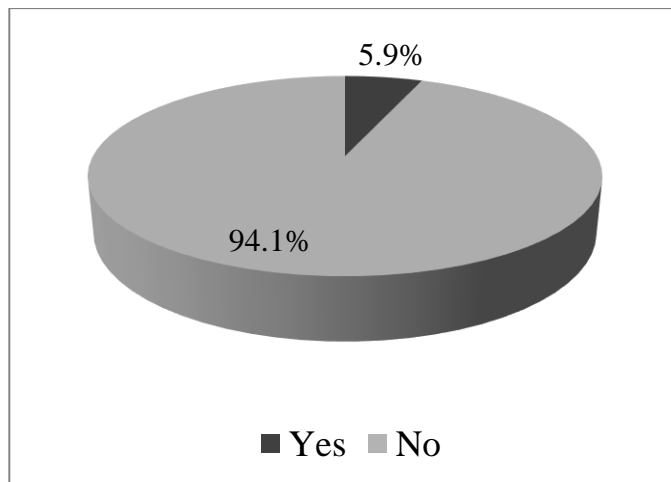


Figure 8. Trappers that trapped during the extended spring season for mink and muskrats (n=509).

### *Changes in Trapper Participation and Harvest*

The number of Illinois residents participating in trapping increased 23% from 2012 (6,320 licenses) to 2013 (7,782 licenses). Average harvest per trapper decreased for all species except opossum, raccoon, weasel, and badger. Opossum harvest increased 15.0%, raccoon increased 12.6%, weasel 11.3% and badger 1.8%. The largest decreases in average harvest were for beaver (29.6%), muskrat (20.2%). Changes in trapper harvest over the past ten years (2003-2013) for each species type and for all species are shown in Figures 9-20.

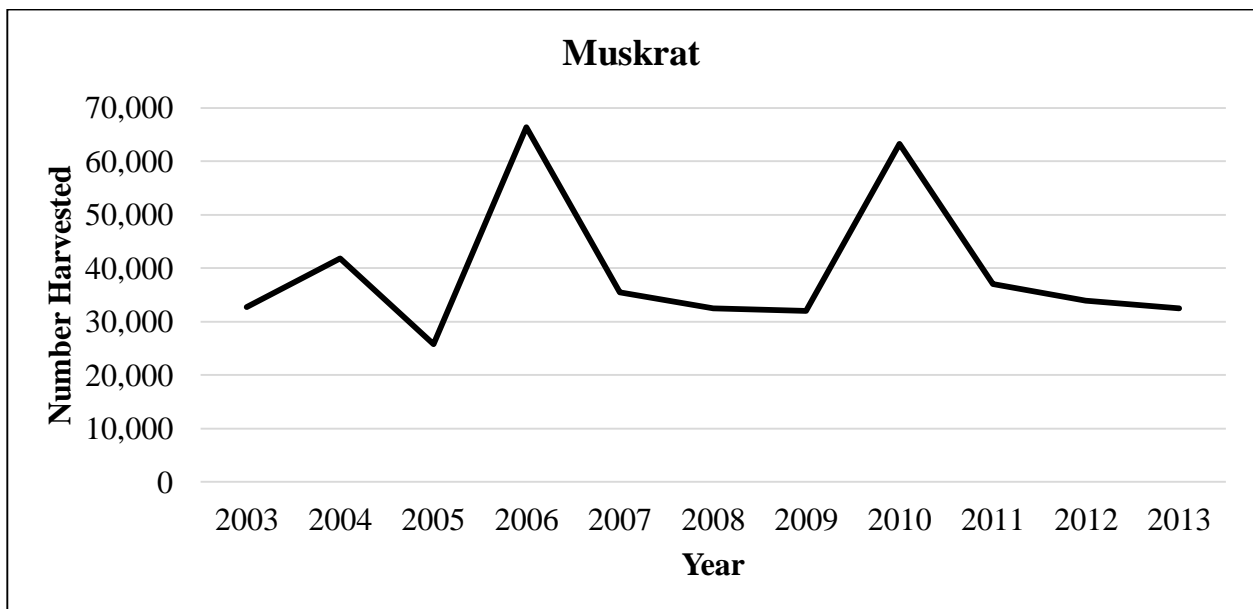


Figure 9. Muskrat harvest 2003 to 2013.

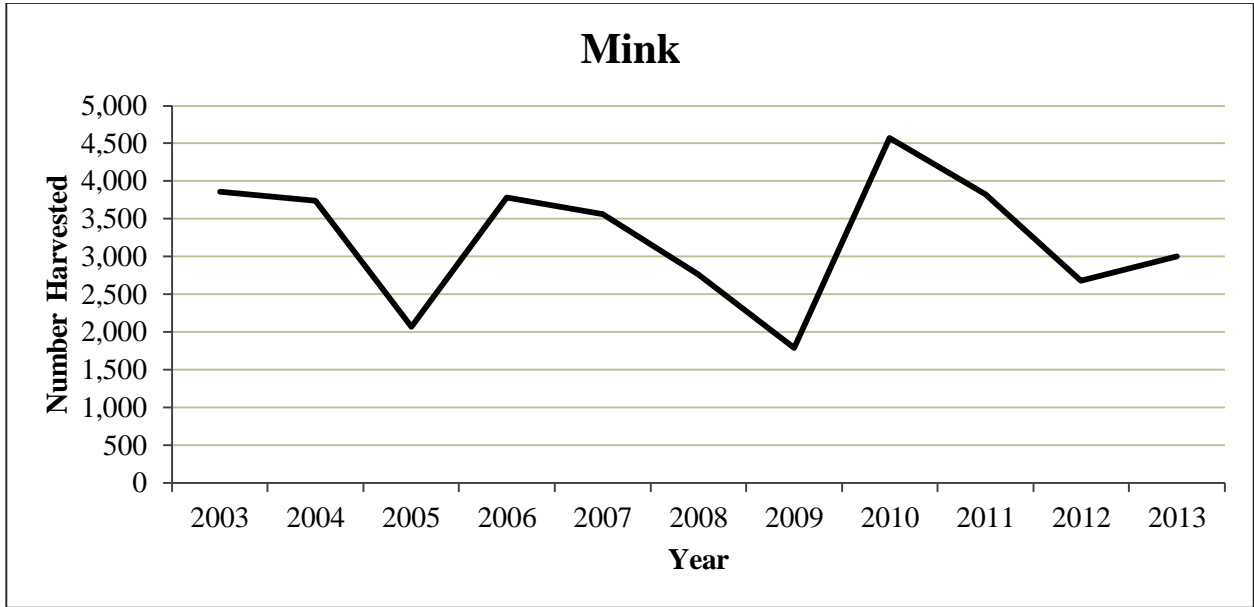


Figure 10. Mink harvest 2003 to 2013.

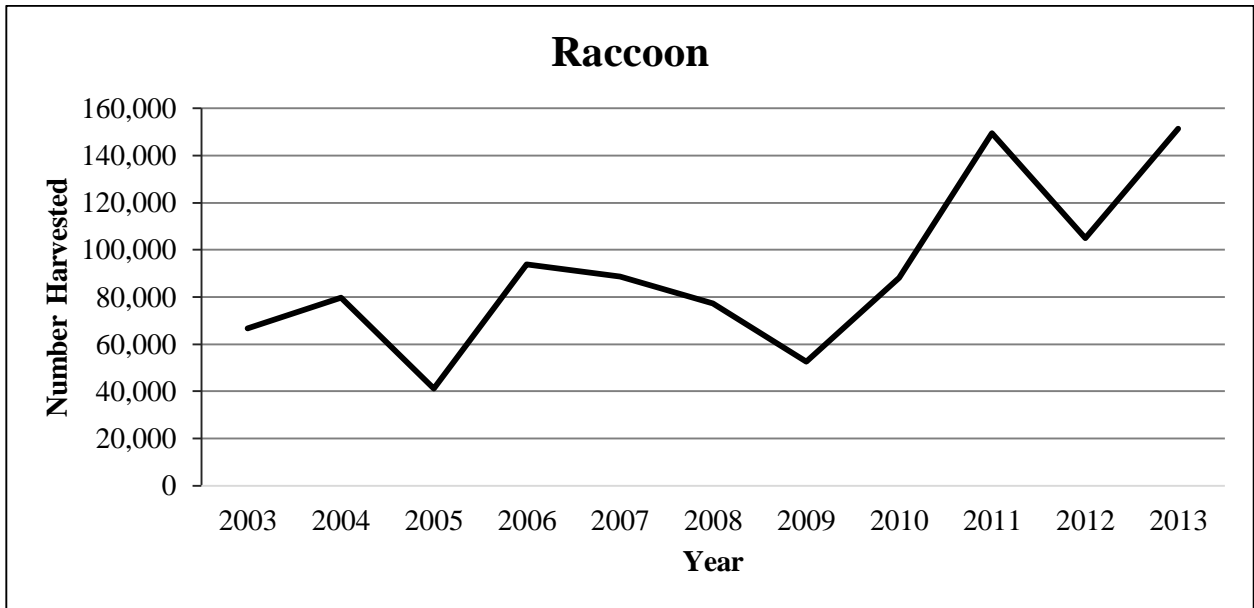


Figure 11. Raccoon harvest 2003 to 2013.

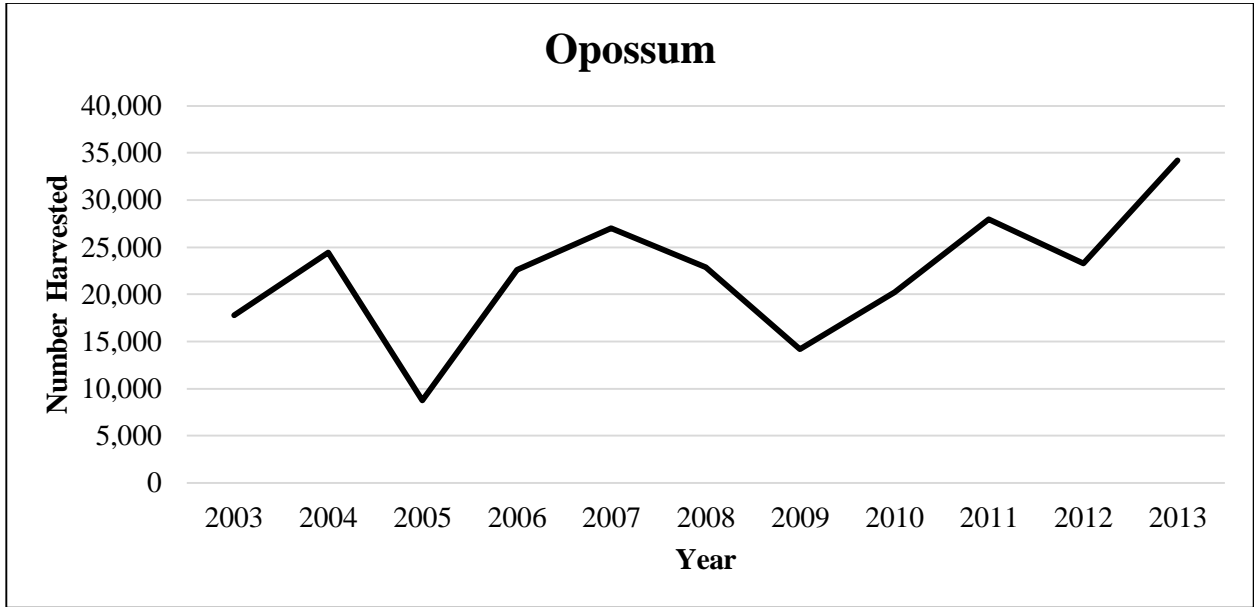


Figure 12. Opossum harvest 2003 to 2013.

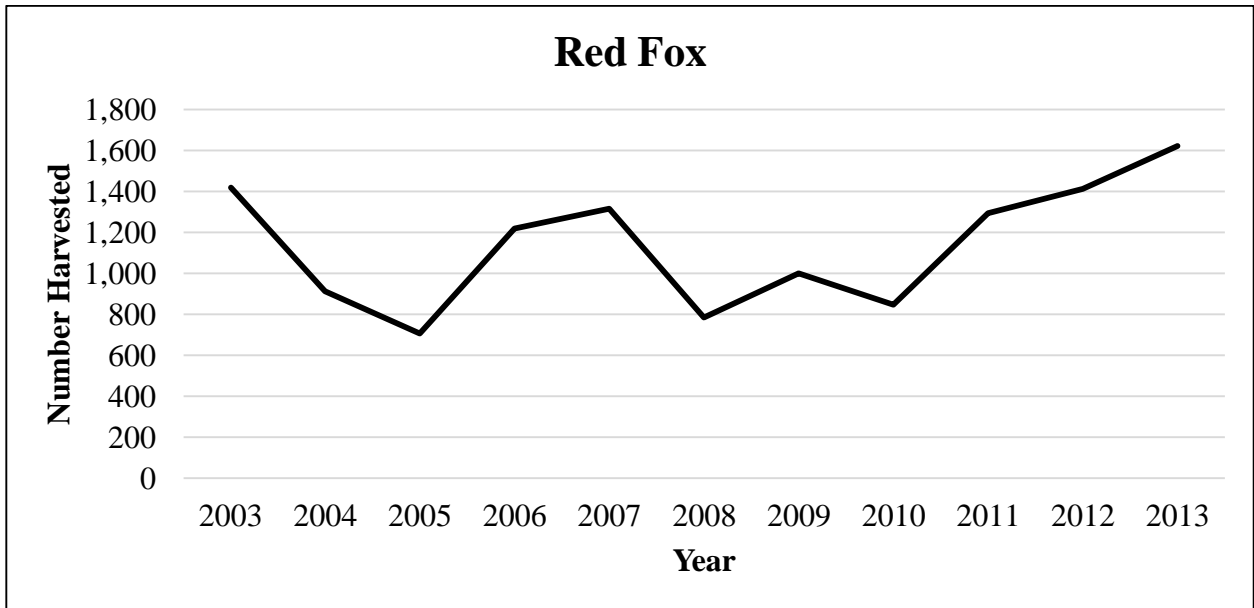


Figure 13. Red Fox harvest 2003 to 2013.

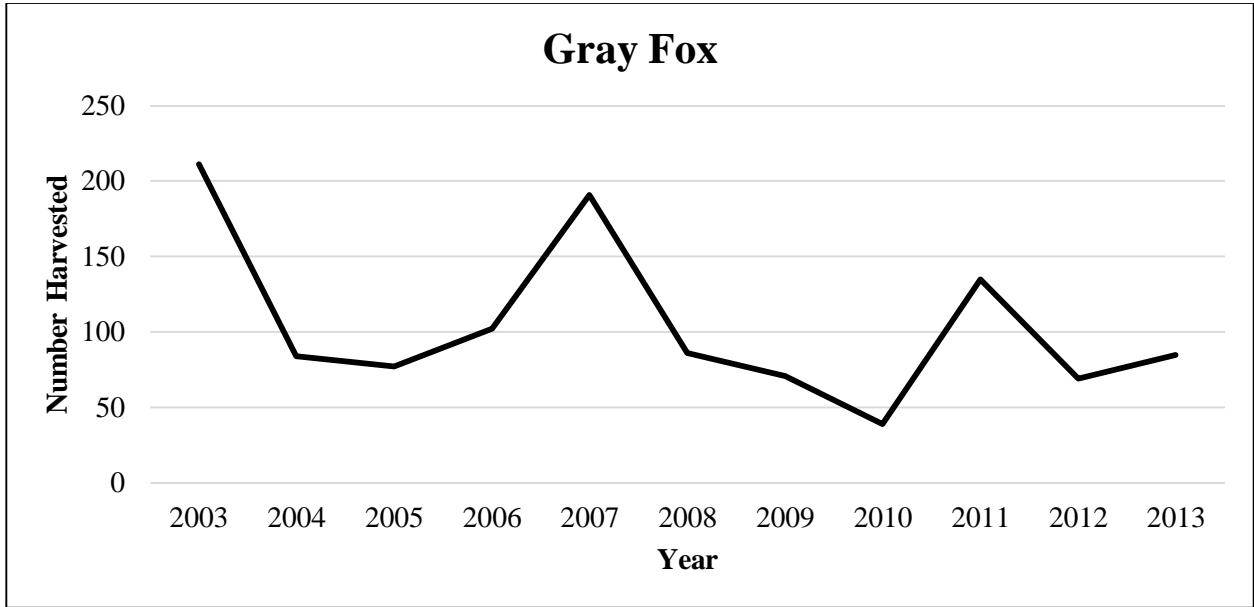


Figure 14. Gray Fox harvest 2003 to 2013.

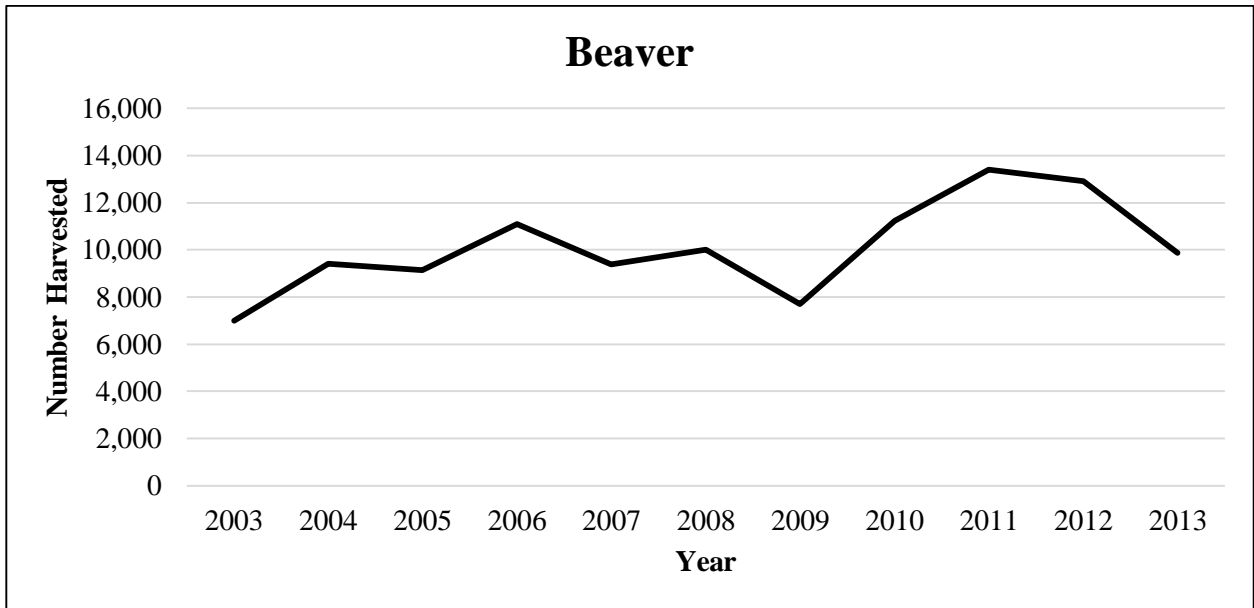


Figure 15. Beaver harvest 2003 to 2013.

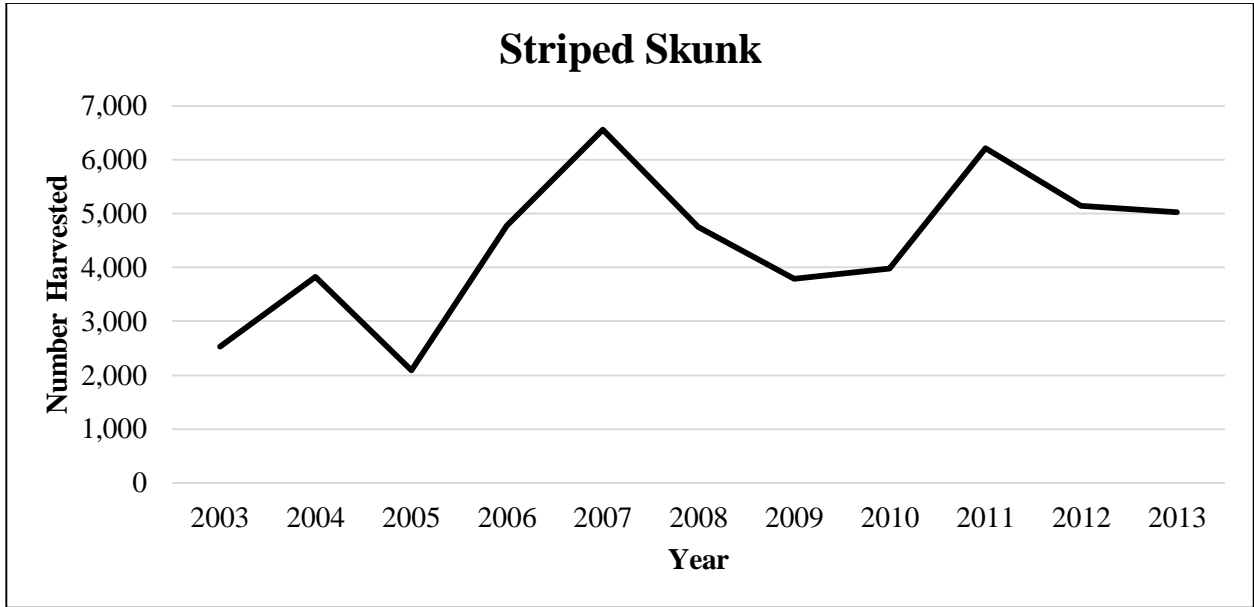


Figure 16. Striped Skunk harvest 2003 to 2013.

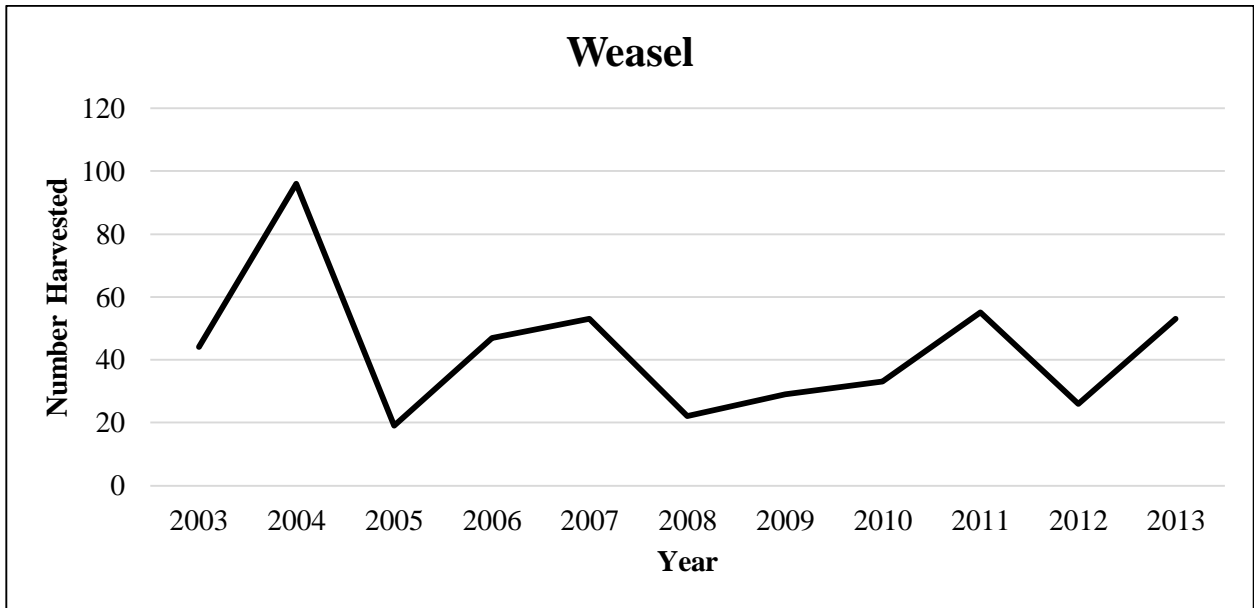


Figure 17. Weasel harvest 2003 to 2013.

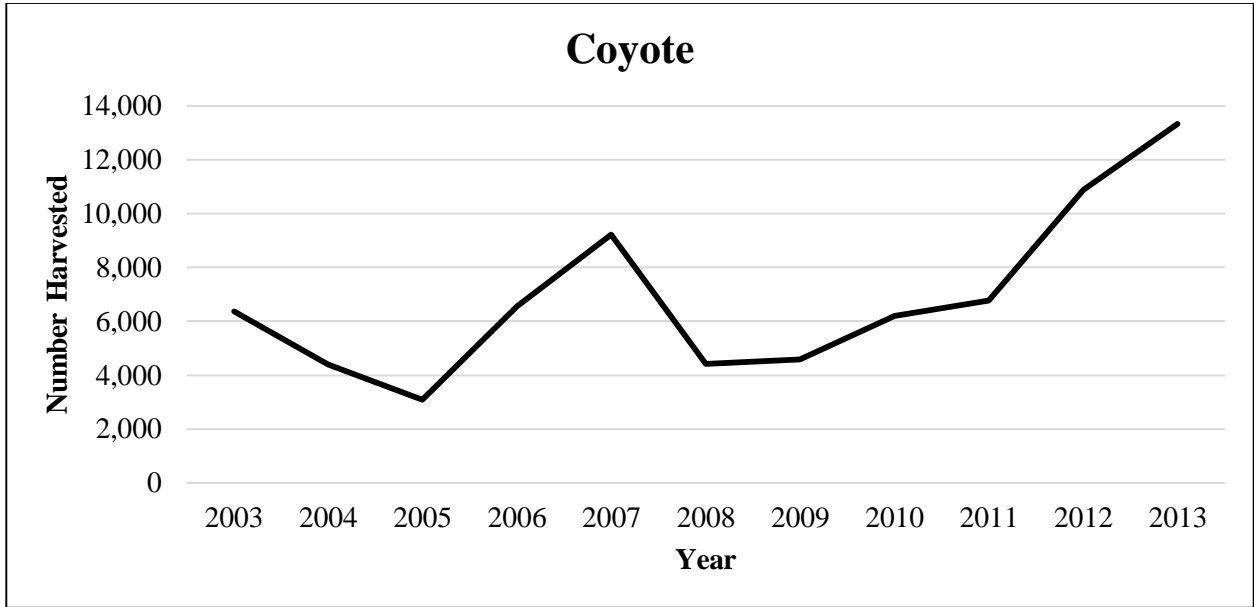


Figure 18. Coyote harvest 2003 to 2013.

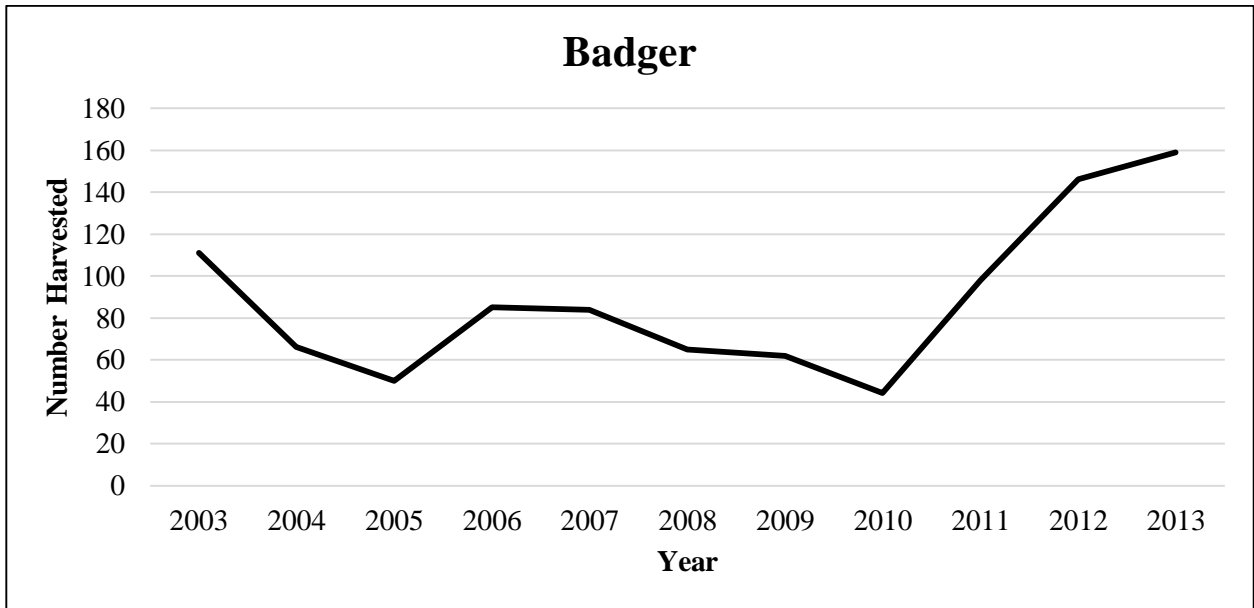


Figure 19. Badger harvest 2003 to 2013.



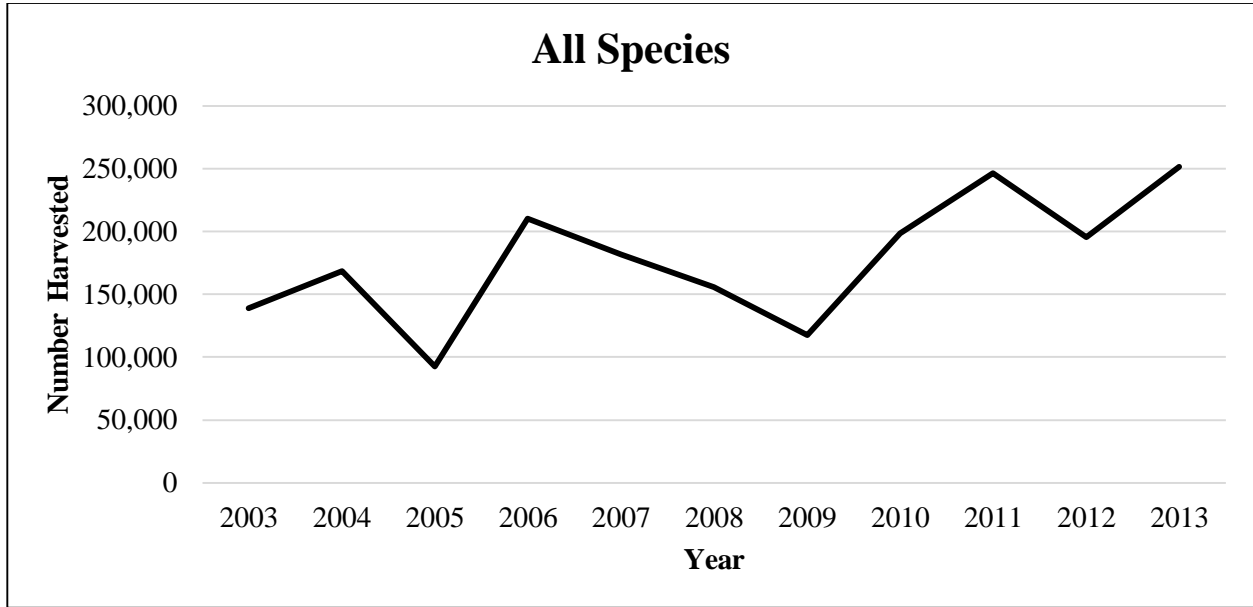


Figure 20. All species' harvest 2003 to 2013.

***Fur Hunting by Trappers***

A total of 175 trappers, 34% of active trappers, reported hunting furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in 2013-2014 (Figure 21), which equates to an estimated 1,858 trappers who hunted furbearers in 2013-2014. Their total harvest was estimated to be 26,659 furbearers or an average of 14.3 furbearers per hunter (Table 28). More trappers hunted raccoon and coyotes than any other species.

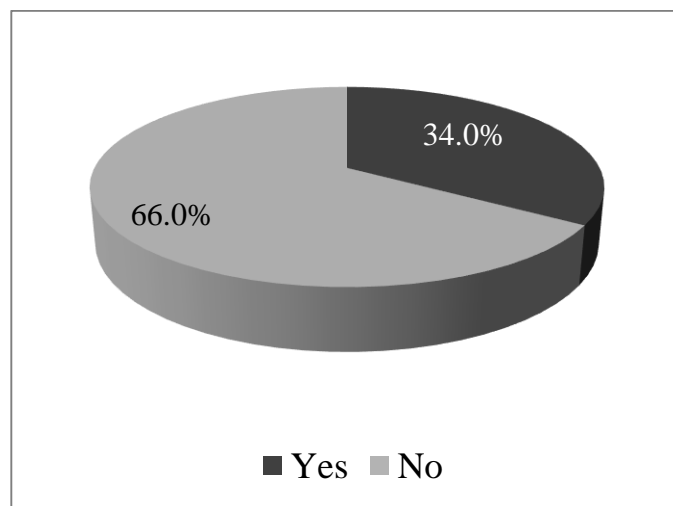


Figure 21. Trappers that hunted furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2013-14 season (n=515).

### *Observation of Bobcats*

Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) or their sign were reported by 156 trappers (Figure 22) in 62 counties and 176 trappers (Figure 23) in 67 counties, respectively. Sightings of bobcats and signs of bobcats are presented by county in Figure 24.

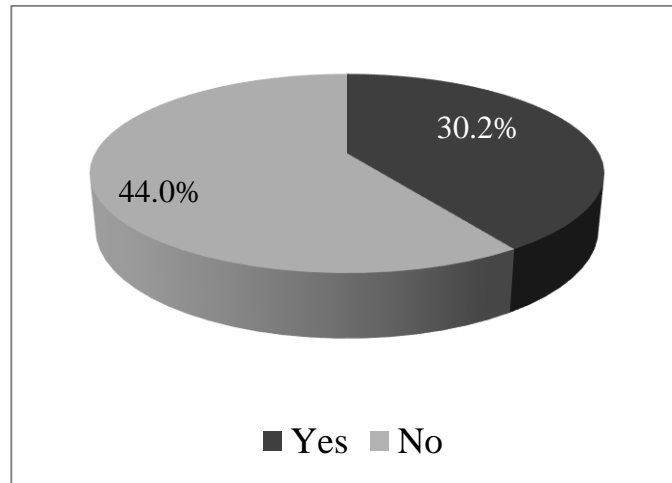


Figure 22. Trappers that reported seeing bobcats in Illinois during the 2013-14 trapping season ( $n=516$ ).

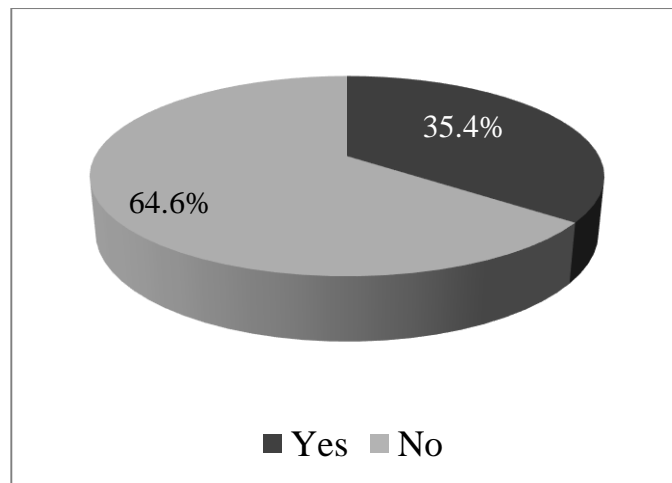


Figure 23. Trappers that reported seeing bobcat sign in Illinois during the 2013-14 trapping season ( $n=497$ ).



**General Information**

During the 2013-2014 season, Illinois trappers were predominantly male (Figure 25), averaged 46 years of age and had been trapping for an average of 18 years. Twenty-two percent of the trappers indicated that the 2013 trapping season was the first season they had ever trapped in Illinois, 49% of the trappers trap every year, and 29% said they recently got back into trapping in Illinois because of fur prices (Figure 26). Over 50% of trappers began trapping when they were between 10 and 19 years old (Figure 27). The counties which reported the most active trappers were Stephenson, Henry, Pike, and Tazewell (Table 29), while the highest densities of trapper residences are in Stephenson, Henry, LaSalle, and Whiteside counties (Table 30).

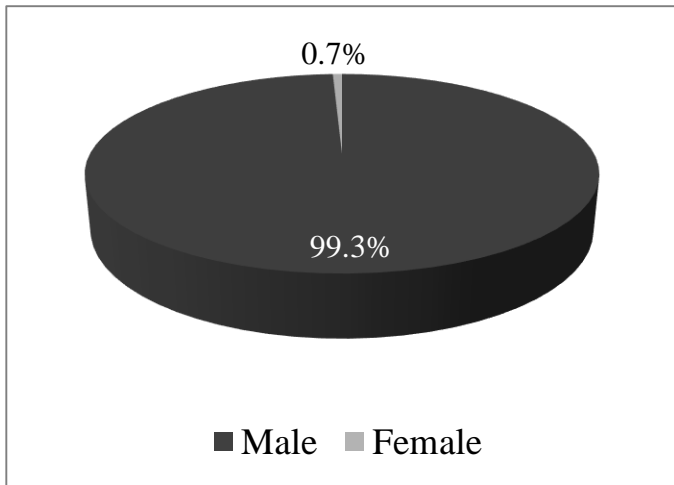


Figure 25. Gender of respondents (n=733).

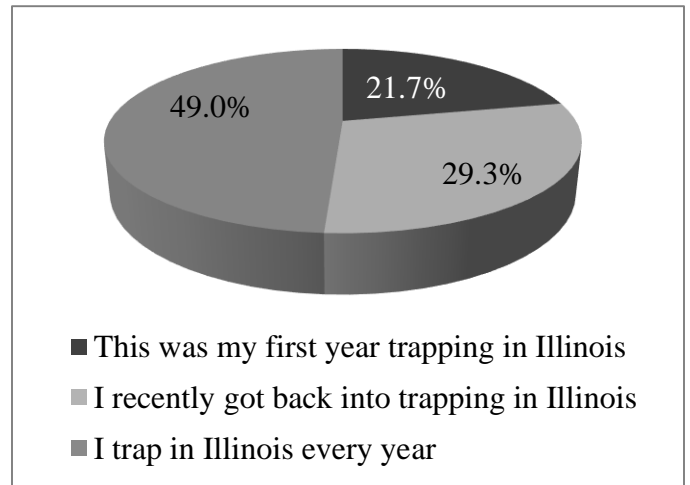


Figure 26. Description of respondents' trapping activities in Illinois (n=635).

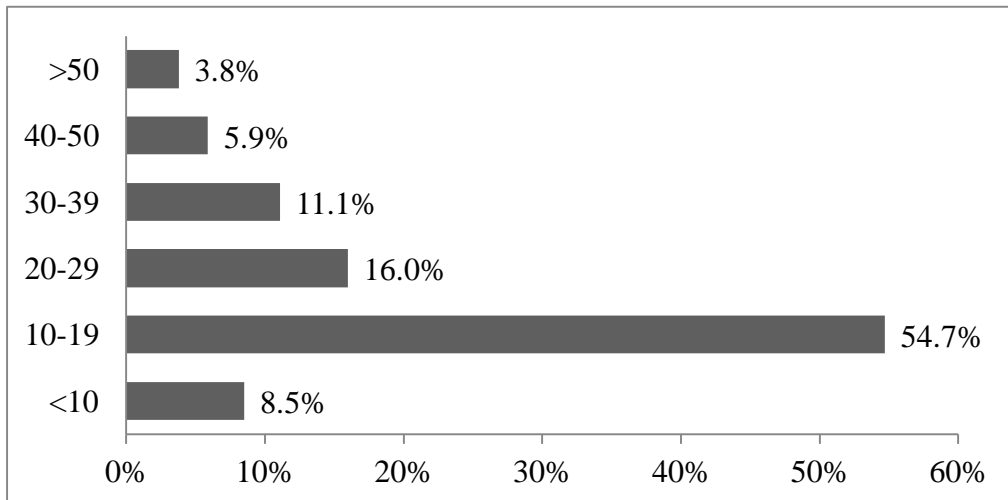


Figure 27. Age of trappers when they started trapping (n=703).

### *Trapper Education Courses*

Almost one-quarter of active trappers (23%) attended a trapping association meeting or convention in the last year (Figure 28), with most (70%) attending just one event (Figure 29). Eighty-four percent of active trappers have never taken a formal trapper education course provided by a state agency (Figure 30); those that have taken a course did so most often because they wanted to (47.0%) or because it was required (37.3%) (Figure 31). Almost one-quarter (22.7%) of respondents have visited the trapper education website [www.trapped.com](http://www.trapped.com) (Figure 32) and over half (53.7%) have visited the IDNR's fur hunting and trapping website (Figure 33). A majority of respondents (77.8) have internet access in their home (Figure 34).

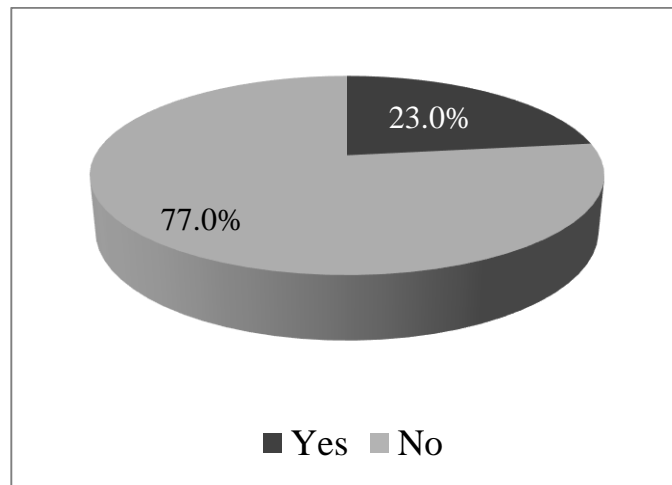


Figure 28. People that attended any trapping association meetings or conventions during the past 12 months ( $n=512$ ).

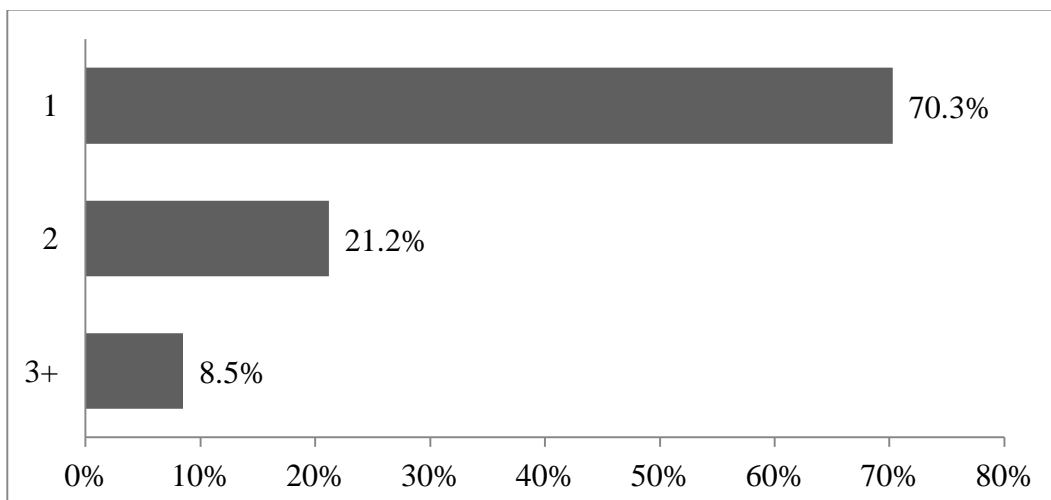


Figure 29. Number of trapping association meetings or conventions people have attended in the past 12 months ( $n=118$ ).

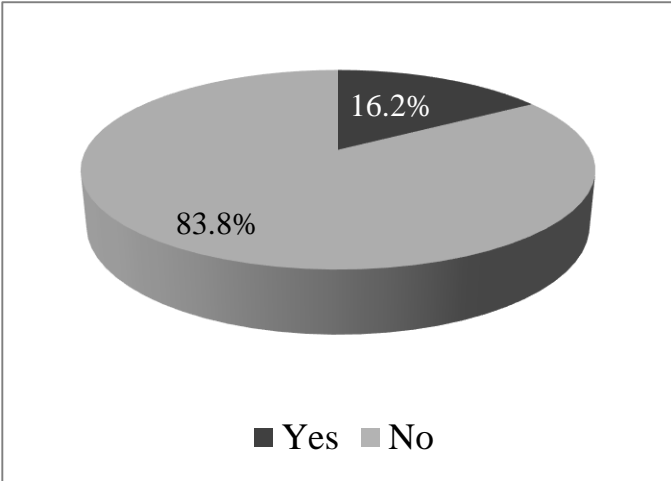


Figure 30. People that have taken a formal trapper education course offered by IDNR or the resource management agency in another state (n=512).

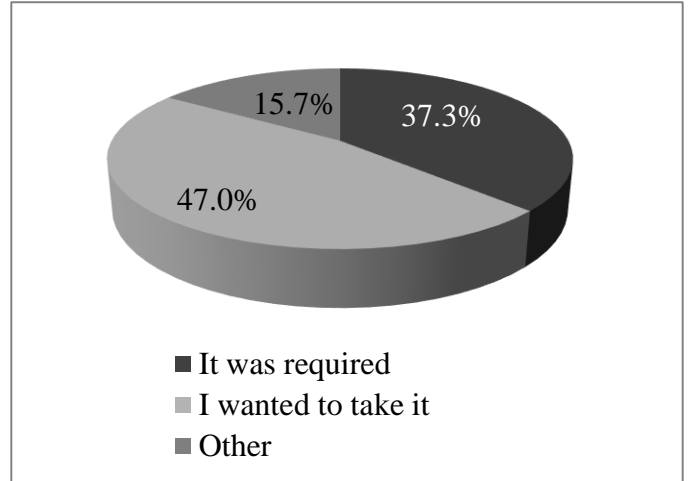


Figure 31. Reason for taking a trapper education course (n=83).

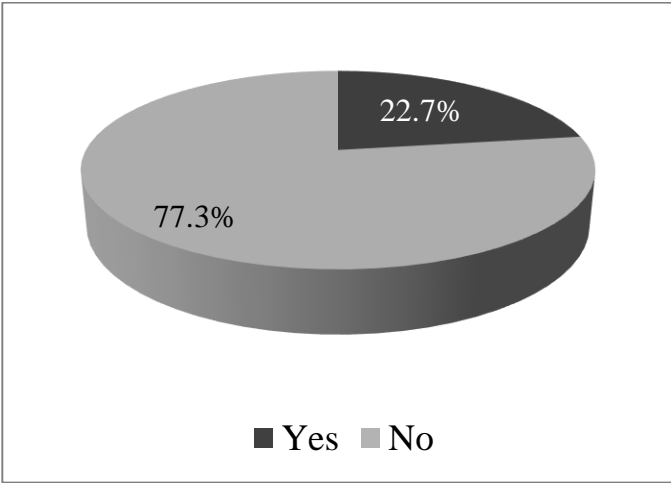


Figure 32. People that have visited the trapper education website [www.trappered.com](http://www.trappered.com) (n=512).

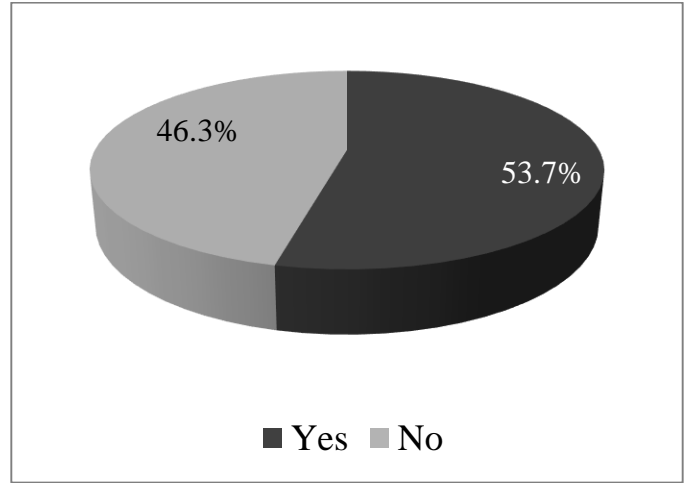


Figure 33. People that have visited the IDNR's fur hunting and trapping website [www.dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildlife](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildlife) (n=512).

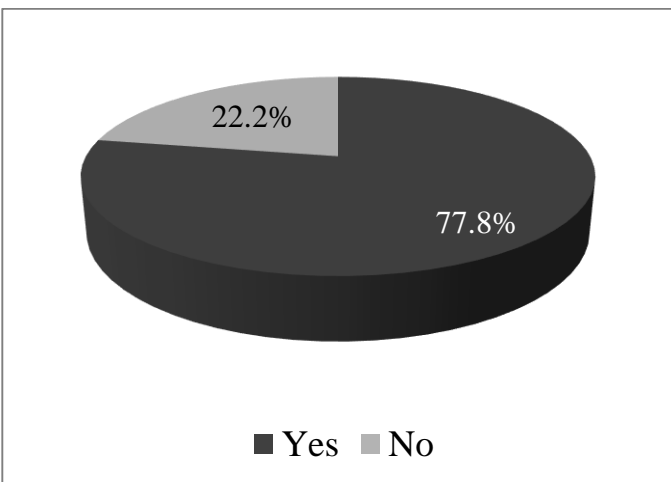


Figure 34. Respondents that have internet access in their home (n=726).

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Table 1. Participation and harvest by fur trappers in Illinois, 2013-2014 season ( $n=733$ ).

Species	Number of Reported Successful Trappers	% (Total Respondents)	Reported Harvest by Successful Trappers
Muskrat	184	25.1	3,058
Mink	112	15.3	283
Raccoon	452	61.7	14,257
Opossum	254	34.7	3,222
Red fox	67	9.1	153
Gray fox	6	0.8	8
Beaver	158	21.6	930
Striped skunk	107	14.6	473
Weasel	3	0.4	5
Coyote	164	22.4	1,254
Badger	13	1.8	15



Table 2. Distribution of reported furbearer harvest among successful trappers in Illinois based on responses to the 2013-2014 Illinois Trapper Survey.

Total Season Catch	Percentage of Trappers										
	Muskrat	Mink	Raccoon	Opossum	Red Fox	Gray fox	Beaver	Striped Skunk	Weasel	Coyote	Badger
<i>n</i> =	184	112	452	254	67	6	158	107	3	164	13
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1-5	39.7	90.2	19.9	47.2	91.0	100.0	66.5	77.6	100.0	67.7	100.0
6-10	23.9	5.3	16.4	21.3	6.0	0.0	18.9	12.1	0.0	15.2	0.0
11-15	10.3	2.7	12.8	9.8	1.5	0.0	5.7	5.6	0.0	8.0	0.0
16-20	4.9	0.9	7.3	7.1	1.5	0.0	3.8	2.8	0.0	2.4	0.0
21-25	4.9	0.9	7.3	4.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	1.9	0.0	1.2	0.0
>25	16.3	0.0	36.3	10.6	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	5.5	0.0

Table 3. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of resident trappers in Illinois, 2013-2014 ( $n=733$ ), 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	1,954 ± 249	25.10	16.62 ± 3.95	32,467 ± 8,050	97.35	31,607
Mink	1,189 ± 207	15.28	2.53 ± 0.64	3,005 ± 844	85.51	2,569
Raccoon	4,799 ± 280	61.67	31.54 ± 4.40	151,367 ± 21,068	86.07	130,281
Opossum	2,697 ± 274	34.65	12.69 ± 3.03	34,208 ± 8,165	37.74	12,910
Red fox	711 ± 166	9.14	2.28 ± 0.63	1,624 ± 536	83.66	1,359
Gray fox	64 ± 52	0.82	1.33 ± 0.42	85 ± 68	75.00	64
Beaver	1,677 ± 236	21.56	5.89 ± 1.26	9,874 ± 2,322	86.67	8,557
Striped Skunk	1,136 ± 203	14.60	4.42 ± 0.92	5,022 ± 1,265	28.54	1,433
Weasel	32 ± 37	0.41	1.67 ± 0.66	53 ± 57	80.00	42
Coyote	1,741 ± 240	22.37	7.65 ± 2.33	13,314 ± 4,088	82.85	11,031
Badger	138 ± 76	1.77	1.15 ± 0.21	159 ± 83	26.67	42

Table 4. Summary of 2013 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ( $n=184$ ).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	276	14.1	2.9	18.5	5,107	54.3
Northeast Moraine	96	4.9	1.2	22.6	2,155	26.1
Mississippi Border-North	96	4.9	1.2	39.2	3,748	47.8
Mississippi Border-South	180	9.2	1.3	10.3	1,858	13.6
Western Prairie/Forest	191	9.8	1.3	28.1	5,372	37.3
Central Sand Prairie	53	2.7	1.3	6.0	319	7.7
Grand Prairie	616	31.5	1.2	16.1	9,927	18.9
Southern Plain	308	15.8	1.3	9.2	2,824	11.9
Wabash Border	106	5.4	1.6	7.2	764	11.3
Shawnee Hills	32	1.6	0.6	12.3	393	7.5
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,954</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>32,467</b>	<b>22.2</b>

Table 5. Summary of 2013 MINK trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ( $n=112$ ).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	138	11.6	1.5	1.8	255	2.7
Northeast Moraine	53	4.5	0.6	5.4	287	3.5
Mississippi Border-North	85	7.1	1.1	3.9	329	4.2
Mississippi Border-South	106	8.9	0.8	1.7	180	1.3
Western Prairie/Forest	138	11.6	1.0	3.2	435	3.0
Central Sand Prairie	42	3.6	1.0	1.3	53	1.3
Grand Prairie	382	32.1	0.7	2.7	1,030	2.0
Southern Plain	170	14.3	0.7	1.6	276	1.2
Wabash Border	53	4.5	0.8	2.4	127	1.9
Shawnee Hills	21	1.8	0.4	1.5	32	0.6
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3,005</b>	<b>2.1</b>

Table 6. Summary of 2013 RACCOON trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ( $n=452$ ).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	520	10.8	5.5	18.7	9,704	103.2
Northeast Moraine	138	2.9	1.7	27.5	3,801	45.9
Mississippi Border-North	276	5.8	3.5	36.2	9,980	127.2
Mississippi Border-South	637	13.3	4.7	32.8	20,894	152.8
Western Prairie/Forest	510	10.6	3.5	36.7	18,718	129.8
Central Sand Prairie	159	3.3	3.8	41.9	6,678	161.0
Grand Prairie	1,094	22.8	2.1	28.8	31,532	59.9
Southern Plain	1,051	21.9	4.4	37.6	39,474	166.4
Wabash Border	255	5.3	3.8	26.6	6,774	100.5
Shawnee Hills	159	3.3	3.1	23.9	3,812	73.1
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,799</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>151,367</b>	<b>103.6</b>

Table 7. Summary of 2013 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ( $n=254$ ).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	223	8.3	2.4	8.5	1,890	20.1
Northeast Moraine	138	5.1	1.7	20.6	2,845	34.4
Mississippi Border-North	159	5.9	2.0	17.9	2,845	36.3
Mississippi Border-South	393	14.6	2.9	11.7	4,597	33.6
Western Prairie/Forest	212	7.9	1.5	15.2	3,217	22.3
Central Sand Prairie	106	3.9	2.6	13.3	1,412	34.1
Grand Prairie	669	24.8	1.3	10.0	6,699	12.7
Southern Plain	573	21.3	2.4	14.9	8,515	35.9
Wabash Border	127	4.7	1.9	10.8	1,380	20.5
Shawnee Hills	96	3.5	1.8	8.4	807	15.5
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,697</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>34,208</b>	<b>23.4</b>

Table 8. Summary of 2013 RED FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ( $n=67$ ).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	21	3.0	0.2	3.0	64	0.7
Northeast Moraine	21	3.0	0.3	1.5	32	0.4
Mississippi Border-North	32	4.5	0.4	1.0	32	0.4
Mississippi Border-South	106	14.9	0.8	2.3	244	1.8
Western Prairie/Forest	106	14.9	0.7	4.6	488	3.4
Central Sand Prairie	11	1.5	0.3	1.0	11	0.3
Grand Prairie	127	17.9	0.2	1.6	202	0.4
Southern Plain	180	25.4	0.8	1.7	308	1.3
Wabash Border	74	10.4	1.1	2.7	202	3.0
Shawnee Hills	32	4.5	0.6	1.3	42	0.8
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>1.1</b>

Table 9. Summary of 2013 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ( $n=6$ ).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	32	50.0	0.2	1.0	32	0.2
Western Prairie/Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Plain	21	33	0.1	2.0	42	0.2
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	11	16.7	0.2	1.0	11	0.2
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>0.1</b>

Table 10. Summary of 2013 BEAVER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ( $n=158$ ).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	180	10.8	1.9	4.1	743	7.9
Northeast Moraine	74	4.4	0.9	6.9	510	6.2
Mississippi Border-North	74	4.4	0.9	12.4	924	11.8
Mississippi Border-South	212	12.7	1.6	7.5	1,582	11.6
Western Prairie/Forest	170	10.1	1.2	4.9	828	5.7
Central Sand Prairie	32	1.9	0.8	3.7	117	2.8
Grand Prairie	499	29.7	0.9	4.3	2,123	4.0
Southern Plain	244	14.6	1.0	5.6	1,370	5.8
Wabash Border	117	7.0	1.7	6.6	775	11.5
Shawnee Hills	74	4.4	1.4	12.1	902	17.3
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,677</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>9,874</b>	<b>6.8</b>

Table 11. Summary of 2013 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ( $n=107$ ).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	127	11.2	1.4	4.7	595	6.3
Northeast Moraine	96	8.4	1.2	5.9	563	6.8
Mississippi Border-North	74	6.5	0.9	3.3	244	3.1
Mississippi Border-South	117	10.3	0.9	5.3	616	4.5
Western Prairie/Forest	85	7.5	0.6	9.6	818	5.7
Central Sand Prairie	53	4.7	1.3	5.2	276	6.7
Grand Prairie	255	22.4	0.5	2.8	711	1.4
Southern Plain	244	21.5	1.0	4.0	966	4.1
Wabash Border	42	3.7	0.6	1.8	74	1.1
Shawnee Hills	42	3.7	0.8	3.8	159	3.1
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5,022</b>	<b>3.4</b>

Table 12. Summary of 2013 WEASEL trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ( $n=3$ ).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	11	33.3	0.1	2.0	21	0.3
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	11	33.3	0.1	2.0	21	0.1
Central Sand Prairie	11	33.3	0.3	1.0	11	0.3
Grand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Table 13. Summary of 2013 COYOTE trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ( $n=164$ ).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	117	6.7	1.2	3.0	350	3.7
Northeast Moraine	74	4.3	0.9	23.3	1,731	20.9
Mississippi Border-North	53	3.0	0.7	6.0	319	4.1
Mississippi Border-South	234	13.4	1.7	12.8	2,983	21.8
Western Prairie/Forest	159	9.1	1.1	9.3	1,476	10.2
Central Sand Prairie	32	1.8	0.8	4.3	138	3.3
Grand Prairie	446	25.6	0.8	7.7	3,451	6.6
Southern Plain	372	21.3	1.6	5.3	1,985	8.4
Wabash Border	170	9.8	2.5	2.0	340	5.0
Shawnee Hills	85	4.9	1.6	6.4	541	10.4
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>13,314</b>	<b>9.1</b>

Table 14. Summary of 2013 BADGER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ( $n=13$ ).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	53	38.5	0.6	1.2	64	0.7
Northeast Moraine	21	15.4	0.3	1.0	21	0.3
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	11	7.7	0.1	1.0	11	0.1
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	42	30.8	0.1	1.3	53	0.1
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	11	7.7	0.2	1.0	11	0.2
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>0.1</b>

Table 15. Summary of 2013 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ( $n=184$ ).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	1,200	61.4	1.5	21.1	25,364	78.1	31.0
South	754	38.6	1.2	9.4	7,103	21.9	11.1
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,954</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>32,467</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22.2</b>



Table 16. Summary of 2013 MINK trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ( $n=112$ ).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	722	60.7	0.9	3.0	2,198	73.1	2.7
South	467	39.3	0.7	1.7	807	26.9	1.3
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3,005</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>

Table 17. Summary of 2013 RACCOON trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ( $n=452$ ).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	2,346	48.9	2.9	29.5	69,244	45.7	84.6
South	2,453	51.1	3.8	33.5	82,122	54.3	127.8
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,799</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>151,367</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>103.6</b>

Table 18. Summary of 2013 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ( $n=254$ ).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	1,327	49.2	1.6	12.5	16,616	48.6	20.3
South	1,370	50.8	2.1	12.8	17,592	51.4	27.4
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,697</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>34,208</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23.4</b>

Table 19. Summary of 2013 RED FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ( $n=67$ ).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km <sup>2</sup>
North	255	35.8	0.3	2.8	711	43.8	0.9
South	457	64.2	0.7	2.0	913	56.2	1.4
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>

Table 20. Summary of 2013 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ( $n=6$ ).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km <sup>2</sup>
North	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South	64	100.0	0.1	1.3	85	100.0	0.1
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>

Table 21. Summary of 2013 BEAVER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ( $n=158$ ).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km <sup>2</sup>
North	881	52.5	1.1	5.5	4,820	48.8	5.9
South	796	47.5	1.2	6.3	5,054	51.2	7.9
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,677</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>9,874</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>

Table 22. Summary of 2013 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ( $n=107$ ).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km <sup>2</sup>
North	584	51.4	0.7	5.2	3,026	60.3	3.7
South	552	48.6	0.9	3.6	1,996	39.7	3.1
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5,022</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.4</b>

Table 23. Summary of 2013 WEASEL trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ( $n=3$ ).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km <sup>2</sup>
North	32	100.0	0.0	1.7	53	100.0	0.1
South	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Table 24. Summary of 2013 COYOTE trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ( $n=164$ ).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km <sup>2</sup>
North	764	43.9	0.9	8.7	6,678	50.2	8.2
South	977	56.1	1.5	6.8	6,636	49.8	10.3
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>13,314</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9.1</b>

Table 25. Summary of 2013 BADGER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ( $n=13$ ).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km <sup>2</sup>
North	127	92.3	0.2	1.2	149	93.3	0.2
South	11	7.7	0.0	1.0	11	6.7	0.0
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>

Table 26. The number of pelts sold by successful trappers (i.e., caught  $\geq 1$  animal) for 11 species of furbearers in Illinois, 2013-2014 season ( $n=733$ ).

Species	Number of Pelts Sold	Pelts Sold in Illinois		Pelts Sold Outside Illinois	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Muskrat	31,607	16,117	51.0	15,490	49.0
Mink	2,569	1,731	67.4	839	32.6
Raccoon	130,281	66,654	51.2	63,628	48.8
Opossum	12,910	6,986	54.1	5,924	45.9
Red fox	1,359	839	61.7	520	38.3
Gray fox	64	32	50.0	32	50.0
Beaver	8,557	4,555	53.2	4,003	46.8
Striped skunk	1,433	722	50.4	711	49.6
Weasel	42	21	50.0	21	50.0
Coyote	11,031	4,502	40.8	6,529	59.2
Badger	42	21	50.0	21	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>199,897</b>	<b>102,178</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>97,719</b>	<b>48.9</b>

Table 27. Estimated statewide harvest by resident Illinois trappers, 2003-2013.

Season	Muskrat	Mink	Raccoon	Opossum	Red Fox	Gray Fox
2003	32,767	3,857	66,783	17,771	1,421	211
2004	41,790	3,737	79,616	24,441	913	84
2005	25,766	2,065	41,125	8,722	705	77
2006	66,297	3,784	93,819	22,617	1,219	102
2007	35,461	3,563	88,784	27,011	1,316	191
2008	32,480	2,764	77,310	22,839	783	86
2009	31,942	1,792	52,431	14,203	1,001	71
2010	63,257	4,574	88,233	20,213	848	39
2011	37,068	3,828	149,449	27,983	1,294	135
2012	33,906	2,678	104,947	23,264	1,412	69
2013	32,467	3,005	151,367	34,208	1,624	85

Season	Beaver	Striped Skunk	Weasel	Coyote	Badger	All Species
2003	6,987	2,531	44	6,360	111	138,843
2004	9,415	3,821	96	4,388	66	168,367
2005	9,132	2,085	19	3,089	50	92,835
2006	11,104	4,768	47	6,553	85	210,395
2007	9,394	6,558	53	9,216	84	181,631
2008	9,997	4,745	22	4,405	65	155,496
2009	7,697	3,784	29	4,585	62	117,597
2010	11,238	3,981	33	6,193	44	198,653
2011	13,397	6,214	55	6,766	98	246,286
2012	12,898	5,140	26	10,874	146	195,360
2013	9,874	5,022	53	13,314	159	251,178

Table 28. Summary of fur hunting activities reported by trappers<sup>a</sup> in Illinois, 2013-2014.

Species	Number of Trappers Hunting	Reported Furbearers Harvested by Hunting	Average Reported Harvest Per Hunter	% of Trappers Hunting Each Species	Estimated Total Harvest By Hunting
Raccoon	100	1814	18.1	13.6	19,259
Opossum	14	39	2.8	1.9	414
Red fox	8	12	1.5	1.1	127
Gray fox	0	0	0.0	0.0	0
Striped skunk	6	29	4.8	0.8	308
Coyote	76	617	8.1	10.4	6,551
All species	175 <sup>b,c</sup>	2511	14.3	23.9	26,659

<sup>a</sup> Active and inactive trappers.

<sup>b</sup> Successful and unsuccessful hunters.

<sup>c</sup> Total for all species is less than the sum of the above values because some trappers hunted >1 species.

Table 29. Distribution of active trappers by county trapped most in Illinois based on responses to the 2013-2014 Illinois Trapper Survey ( $n=509$ ).

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

Table 30. Distribution of respondents by county of residence ( $n = 733$ ).

County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>
Adams	13	Hardin	2	Morgan	9
Alexander	3	Henderson	4	Moultrie	2
Bond	8	Henry	21	Ogle	12
Boone	5	Iroquois	6	Peoria	8
Brown	3	Jackson	7	Perry	9
Bureau	7	Jasper	8	Piatt	7
Calhoun	6	Jefferson	8	Pike	14
Carroll	8	Jersey	4	Pope	2
Cass	5	JoDaviess	11	Pulaski	2
Champaign	7	Johnson	4	Putnam	2
Christian	5	Kane	6	Randolph	8
Clark	5	Kankakee	12	Richland	10
Clay	2	Kendall	2	Rock Island	12
Clinton	13	Knox	9	St. Clair	16
Coles	3	Lake	8	Saline	5
Cook	6	LaSalle	19	Sangamon	14
Crawford	4	Lawrence	6	Schuyler	3
Cumberland	7	Lee	4	Scott	0
DeKalb	9	Livingston	9	Shelby	6
DeWitt	5	Logan	8	Stark	4
Douglas	1	McDonough	9	Stephenson	20
DuPage	7	McHenry	10	Tazewell	15
Edgar	3	McLean	14	Union	6
Edwards	4	Macon	3	Vermilion	2
Effingham	14	Macoupin	9	Wabash	3
Fayette	10	Madison	11	Warren	6
Ford	3	Marion	12	Washington	3
Franklin	5	Marshall	5	Wayne	8
Fulton	12	Mason	4	White	4
Gallatin	5	Massac	4	Whiteside	17
Greene	2	Menard	4	Will	8
Grundy	3	Mercer	5	Williamson	2
Hamilton	7	Monroe	7	Winnebago	11
Hancock	12	Montgomery	5	Woodford	11



Appendix A

# Illinois Trapper Survey: 2013 - 2014 Season



Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
and  
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 COOPERATION!**

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 2013-2014 trapping season in Illinois.

1. Did you set any **traps** for furbearers in Illinois during the 2013-14 trapping season? (*Please check one*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No (Please skip to **Section 4**)

2. Complete each blank for all species **trapped** in Illinois during the 2013-14 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	_____	_____	_____	_____

3. In which county did you set traps most often during the 2013-14 trapping season? (*Please indicate*)

\_\_\_\_\_ County

4. How many days (or nights) did you set traps during the 2013-14 trapping season?

\_\_\_\_\_ days (or nights)

5. What was the average number of traps you set on your trapline during the 2013-14 trapping season?

\_\_\_\_\_ traps

6. Did you attempt to trap otters during the 2013-14 trapping season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No

7. Did you trap during the extended spring season for mink and muskrats?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No

7a. If "Yes," how many of each did you harvest during the extended season? \_\_\_\_\_ mink  
 \_\_\_\_\_ muskrats

8. Did you **hunt furbearers** with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2013-14 season?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

8a. If "Yes," please give the number of each species taken **by hunting**:

\_\_\_\_\_ Raccoon      \_\_\_\_\_ Red Fox      \_\_\_\_\_ Gray Fox  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Coyote      \_\_\_\_\_ Skunk      \_\_\_\_\_ Opossum

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

1. Did you see any bobcats in Illinois during the 2013-14 trapping season? (*Please check one*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No (Please skip to **Question 3**)

2. If you did see bobcats in Illinois during the 2013-14 trapping season, in which county(ies) were they seen? (*Please indicate.*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ County(ies)

3. Did you see bobcat sign in Illinois during the 2013-14 trapping season? (*Please check one*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No (Please skip to **Section 3**)

4. If you did see bobcat sign in Illinois during the 2013-14 trapping season, in which county(ies) was it seen? (*Please indicate*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ County(ies)

**Section 3. Trapper Education and Information.** Please answer the following questions about trapper education and information in Illinois.

1. Did you attend any trapping association meetings or conventions during the past 12 months?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes If "Yes," how many did you attend? \_\_\_\_\_ meetings/conventions  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No

2. Have you ever taken a formal trapper's education course offered by the IDNR or the resource management agency in another state?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

2a. If "Yes," why did you take a trapper's education course? (*Please check one*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ It was required  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I wanted to take it  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please identify) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Have you ever visited the trapper education website [www.trappered.com](http://www.trappered.com)?

Yes  No

4. Have you ever visited the IDNR's fur hunting and trapping website? ([www.dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildlife](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildlife))

Yes  No

**Section 4. Information about you.** 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. How old were you when you started trapping? \_\_\_\_\_ years

3. How many years have you been trapping in Illinois? \_\_\_\_\_ years

4. Please give your gender  Male  Female

5. What is your county of residence? (*Please indicate*) \_\_\_\_\_ County

6. Do you have internet access in your home?  Yes  No

7. Which of the following **best** describes your trapping activities in Illinois? Please check **one** response.

This was my first year trapping in Illinois

I recently got back into trapping in Illinois because of fur prices

I trap in Illinois every year

### 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

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March 26, 2014

Dear Illinois Trapper,

You are one of a select group of Illinois trappers asked to provide information about your trapping activities in Illinois. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire about your trapping harvest and activities in Illinois during the 2013-2014 trapping season.

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.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/> or like us on Facebook at the Human Dimensions Research Program - Illinois Natural History Survey page to be notified when results are available.

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.

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

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April 23, 2014

Dear Illinois Trapper,

You recently received a survey questionnaire requesting information about your trapping activities during the 2013-2014 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 2013-2014 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.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,  


Craig A. Miller  
Human Dimensions Research Program

## Appendix E

2013-2014 Season Dates and Limits Information *(continued)*

	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
<b>Furbearers—Hunting</b>	Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 5, 2013 - Feb. 10, 2014 (North) Nov. 10, 2013 - Feb. 15, 2014 (South) Closed Nov. 22-23 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 24 and closed Dec. 5-7 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 8 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted except Nov. 5 (North) and Nov. 10 (South) opens at sunrise <sup>d</sup>	No Limit
	Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 10, 2013 - Jan. 31, 2014 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 22-23 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 24 and closed Dec. 5-7 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 8 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted except Nov. 10 opens at sunrise <sup>d</sup>	
	Coyote and Striped Skunk	Year round (Statewide) Closed Nov. 22-23 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 24 and closed Dec. 5-7 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 8 in counties open for firearm deer hunting <sup>e</sup>	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset; open 24 hours Nov. 10, 2013 - <del>March 15, 2014</del>	

	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	LIMIT	SPECIAL REGULATIONS	
<b>Furbearers—Trapping</b>	Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, Mink, Muskrat, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote, Badger	Nov. 5, 2013 - Jan. 20, 2014 (North) Nov. 10, 2013 - Jan. 25, 2014 (South)	None except for badger, which is limited to 2 per person per season in north zone and 1 per person per season in south zone		
	Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1-Sept. 30, 2013 (Statewide)	None		
	Beaver	Nov. 5, 2013 - March 31, 2014 (North) Nov. 10, 2013 - March 31, 2014 (South)			
	River Otter	Nov. 5, 2013 - March 31, 2014 (North) Nov. 10, 2013 - March 31, 2014 (South)	5 per person per season (statewide)		Must purchase Otter Registration Permit within 48 hours after each otter is trapped. Must affix official CITES tag to each pelt.
	Extended Spring Season for Mink and Muskrat	Jan. 20, 2014 - Feb. 15, 2014 (North) Jan. 25, 2014 - Feb. 15, 2014 (South)	None		No foothold traps may be set for mink or muskrat. Body-gripping (killer) traps must be completely submerged underwater.

<sup>a</sup> On the 2nd day of the hunting season, you may possess no more than twice the daily bag limit.

<sup>b</sup> South — 1st season—April 7-11; 2nd season—April 12-17; 3rd season—April 18-23; 4th season—April 24-30; 5th season—May 1-8  
North — 1st season—April 14-18; 2nd season—April 19-24; 3rd season—April 25-30; 4th season—May 1-7; 5th season—May 8-15

<sup>c</sup> The daily bag and possession limits include mourning doves and white-winged doves in the aggregate. There is no bag limit on Eurasian-collared doves and ringed turtle doves, but they may be taken only during the established season dates and hours and using only legal methods for mourning doves. Hunters may not remain in the field for the purpose of taking Eurasian-collared doves or ringed turtle doves after they reach their daily bag limit for mourning/white-winged doves.

<sup>d</sup> During the Archery Deer Season bow hunting hours for coyote, striped skunk, raccoon, opossum, red fox and gray fox will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

<sup>e</sup> Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may take coyotes during firearm deer season by shotgun with slugs, muzzleloader or handgun from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

<sup>f</sup> No hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than two antlered deer during a year, including the archery, muzzleloader and youth firearm seasons. For the purpose of this bag limit, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates are within the same 12-month period that begins July 1.

<sup>g</sup> Antlered deer bag limit does not apply to this season.



Appendix F

Wildlife Management Units and Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois

