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2014-2015 Illinois Trapper Report: Harvest, Effort, and Marketing Practices



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^a WMU = Wildlife Management Unit

^b FMZ = Furbearer Management Zones

2014-2015
ILLINOIS TRAPPER REPORT:
Harvest, Effort, and Marketing Practices

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-24
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.2

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Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-24
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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ABSTRACT

We sampled 1,200 purchasers of 2014 resident Illinois trapping licenses from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources licensing database. Licensees were mailed a 4-page questionnaire, and we received 710 (58%) questionnaires. Trapping license sales increased 7% from 2013 (7,782 licenses) to 2014 (8,303). Trappers set an average of 16.1 traps for an average of 23.1 days or nights during the 2014-2015 season, and harvested an estimated 179,978 furbearers (down 28% from the 251,178 harvested in 2013-2014). An estimated 101,035 raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) were trapped during the 2014-2015 Illinois trapping season, a decrease of 33% from the estimated 151,367 trapped during the 2013-2014 season. Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) harvest was the next highest at 33,860 muskrats (4% increase from the previous year).

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 (2014-2015) 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 30 March 2015. The initial sample of 1,200 licenses was reduced to 1,185 due to undeliverable addresses. Nonrespondents were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) on 16 April 2015. Remaining nonrespondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 05 May 2015. Trappers who did not respond to the previous mailings were mailed a second thank you/reminder postcard on 20 May 2015. Season date information can be located in Appendix E.

RESULTS

A total of 710 license purchasers responded to the survey. Of these, 654 were considered usable, resulting in a 58% 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 654 license purchasers in our sample, 437 (67%) set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2014-2015 season (Figure 1). Active trappers set an average of 16.1 traps for an average of 23.1 days or nights (Figure 2). Maximum number of days a trapper could have trapped was 147; 20.8% set traps for > 30 days and 10.8% of trappers set traps for > 45 days (Figure 3).

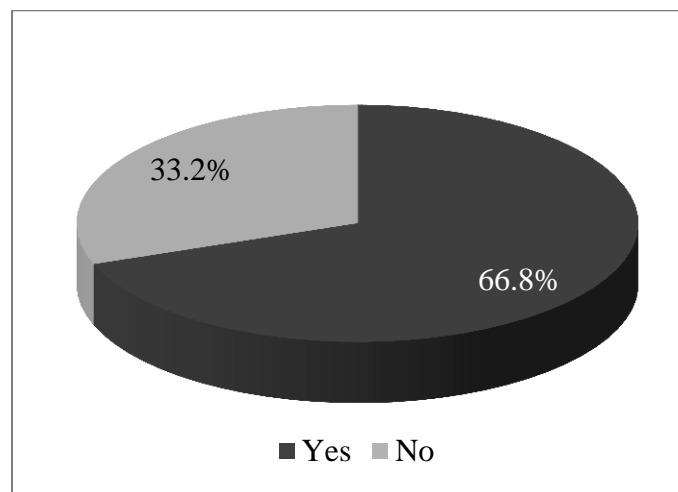


Figure 1. License purchasers that set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2014-2015 trapping season ($n=654$).

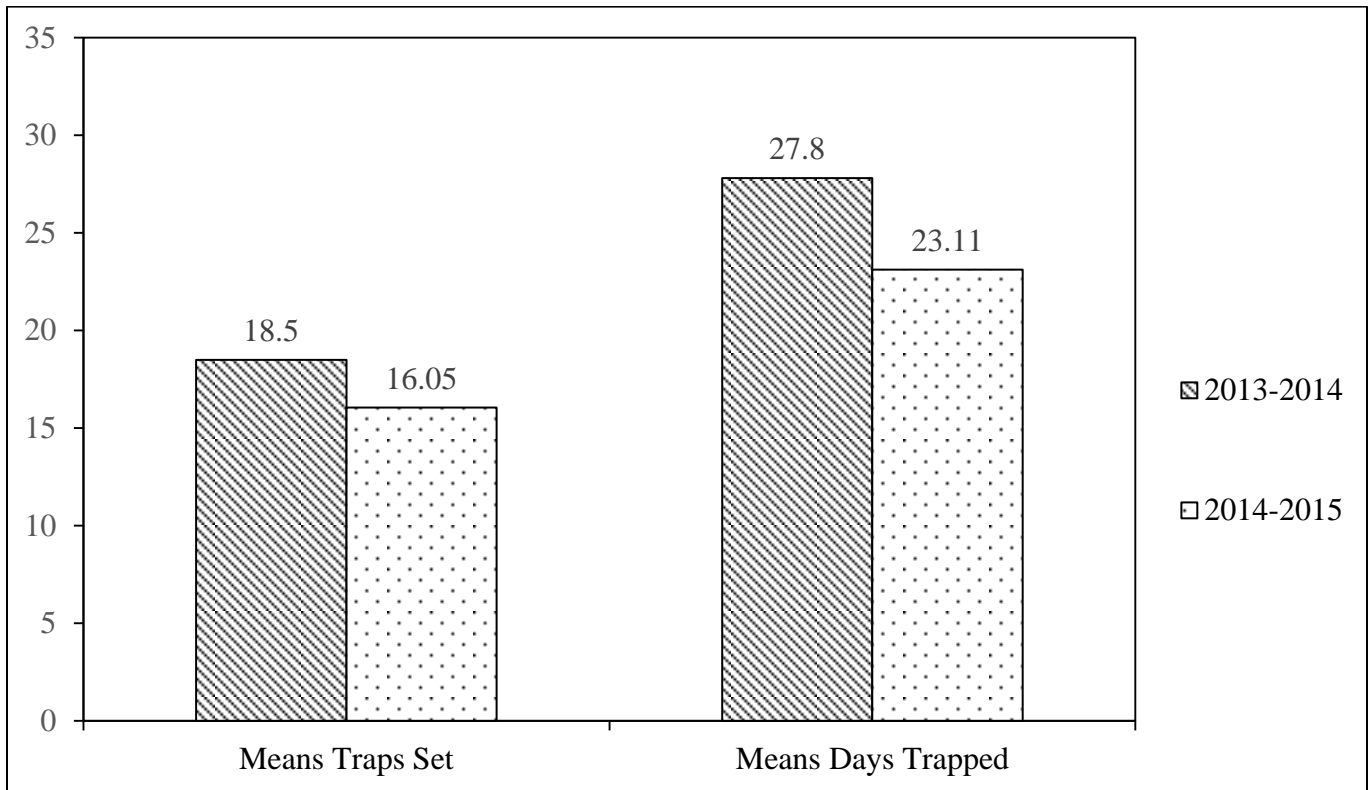


Figure 2. Comparison of trapping activity reported in 2014-2015 and 2013-2014 Illinois Trapper Survey.

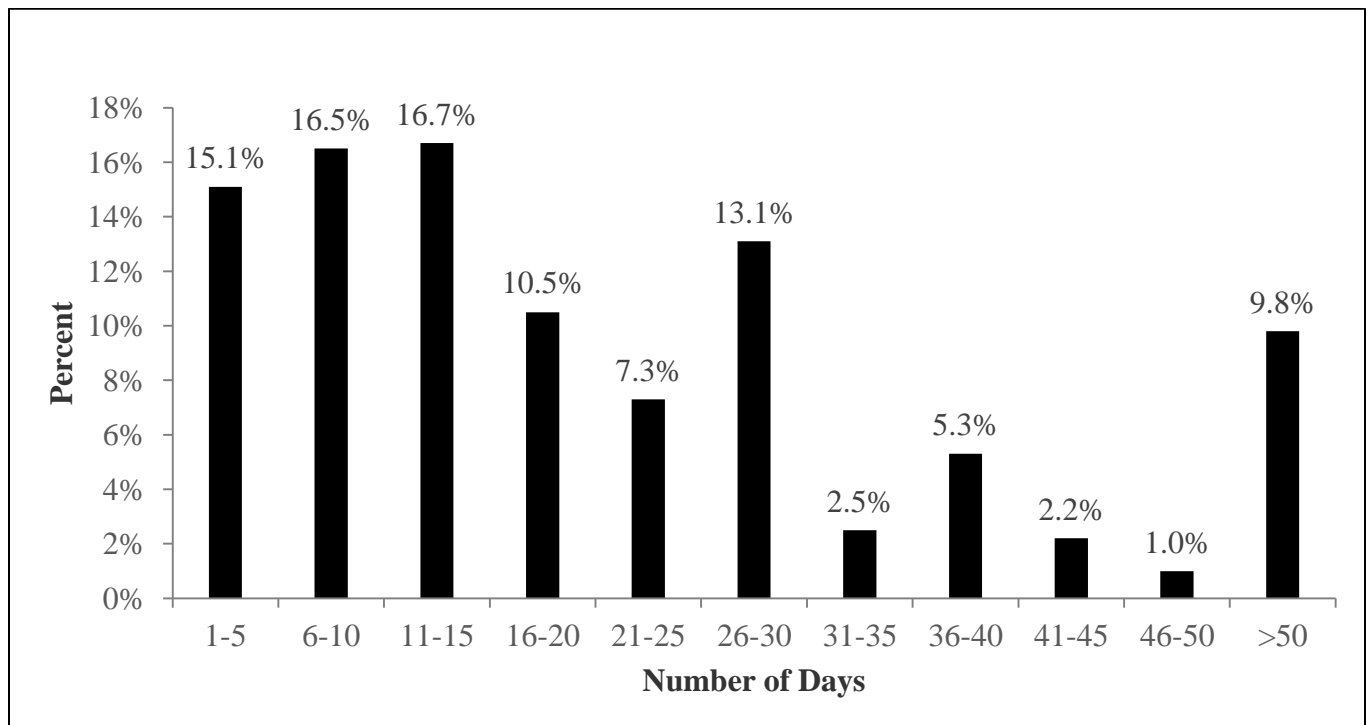


Figure 3. Distribution of days of trapping by active trappers in Illinois, 2014-2015 season (n=437).

Participation during the 2014-2015 season was highest among raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) trappers, estimated at 4,469 trappers statewide (Table 3), a decrease of 7% from the 2013-2014 trapping season (Stephenson et al. 2014). Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) trapping was second in participation with 2,057 trappers, followed by coyote (*Canis latrans*; 1,676 trappers), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*; 1,549), and beaver (*Castor canadensis*; 1,384 trappers). Badger (*Taxidea taxus*; 152 trappers), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*; 76 trappers), and weasel (*Mustela frenata* and *nivalis*; 76 trappers) were the least often targeted species by trappers. Approximately 9% of respondents reported they attempted to trap otters during the 2014-2015 season. Additional information regarding otter harvest during the 2014-2015 trapping season can be found in the 2014-2015 Illinois Otter Trapper Report (Williams et al. 2015).

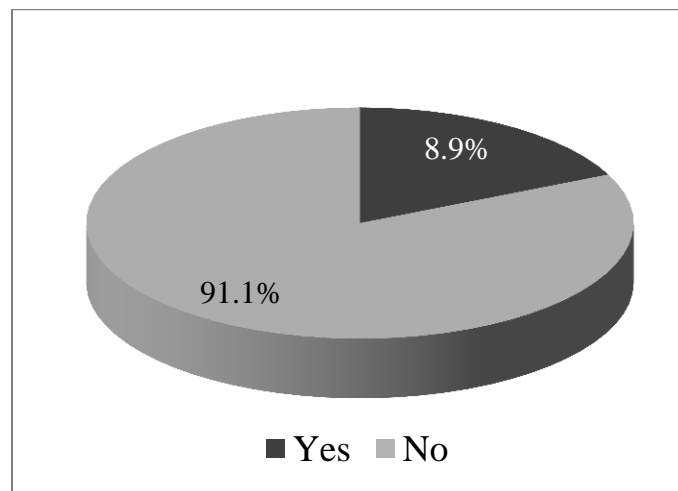


Figure 4. People who attempted to trap otters during the 2014-15 trapping season ($n=437$).

Harvest

An estimated 101,035 raccoons were trapped by trappers during the 2014-2015 Illinois trapping season, which was a decrease of 33% from the estimated 151,367 trapped during the 2013-2014 season (Table 3). Muskrat harvest was the next highest at 33,860 muskrats trapped (4% increase from previous year), followed by opossum (17,152; 50% decrease from previous year), coyote (11,096; 17% decrease from previous year), beaver (7,249; 27% decrease from previous year), striped skunk (4,621; 8% decrease from previous year), and

mink (2,895; 4% decrease from previous year). The number of muskrats harvested averaged 21.86 per trapper and ranged from 1-187 (Figure 5), and the number of raccoons harvested averaged 22.61 per trapper and ranged from 1-300 (Figure 6). Confidence intervals (95%) for trapper participation and harvest of each species are presented in Table 3.

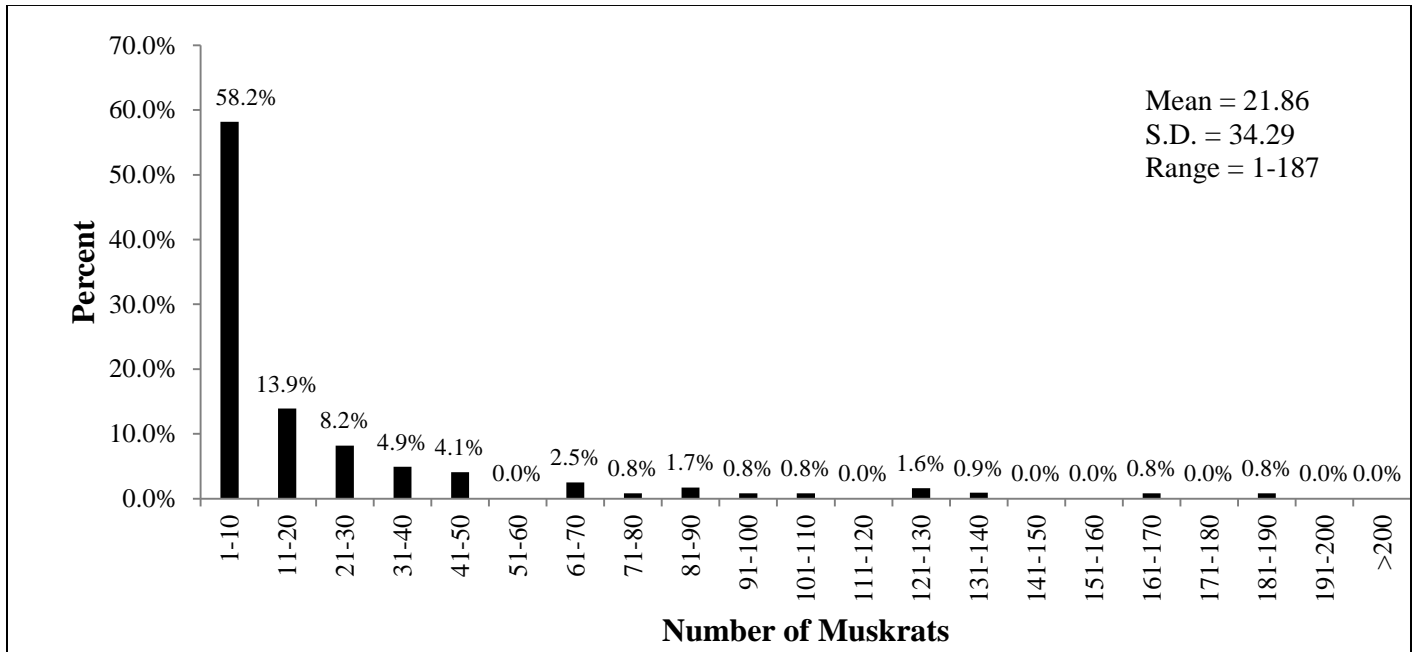


Figure 5. Distribution of the number of muskrats trapped per successful muskrat trapper in Illinois, 2014-2015 season ($n=122$).

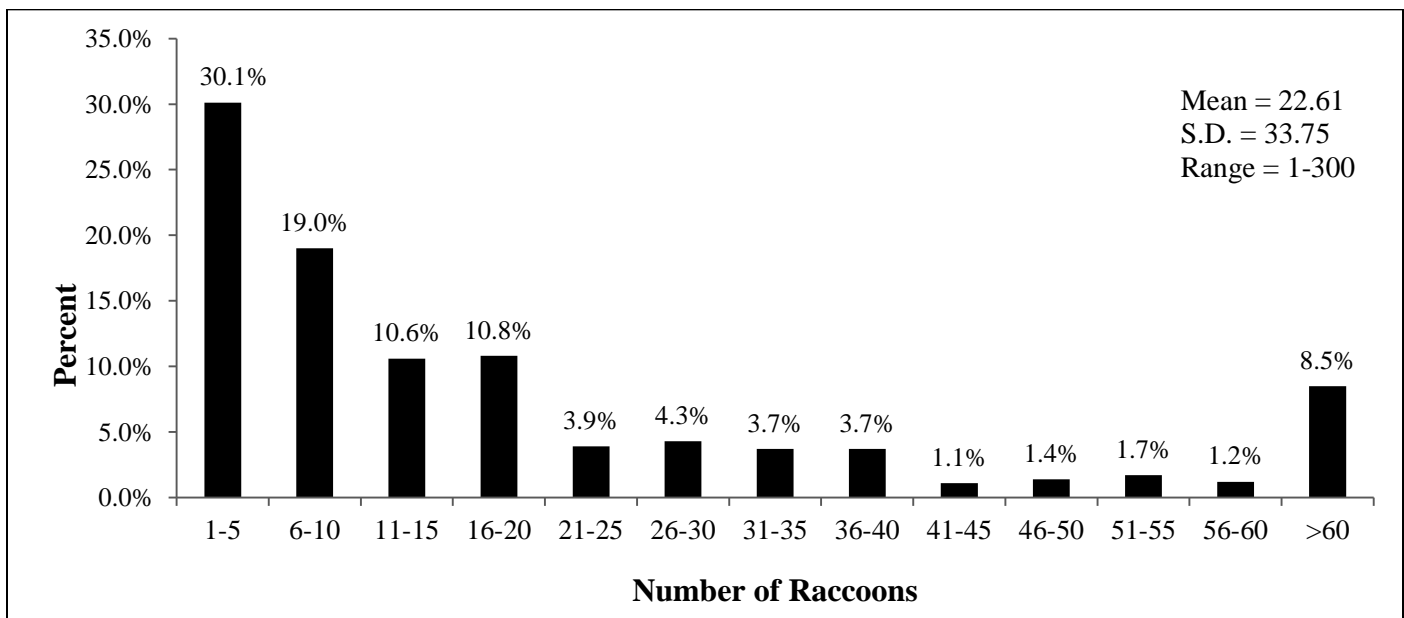


Figure 6. Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per successful raccoon trapper in Illinois, 2014-2015 season ($n=352$).

Total 2014-2015 trapper harvest decreased from 251,178 in 2013 to 179,978 (Figure 7). Harvest and trapping effort for each species are reported by wildlife management units and furbearer management zones in Tables 4-25. The estimated number of pelts sold in 2014-2015 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.

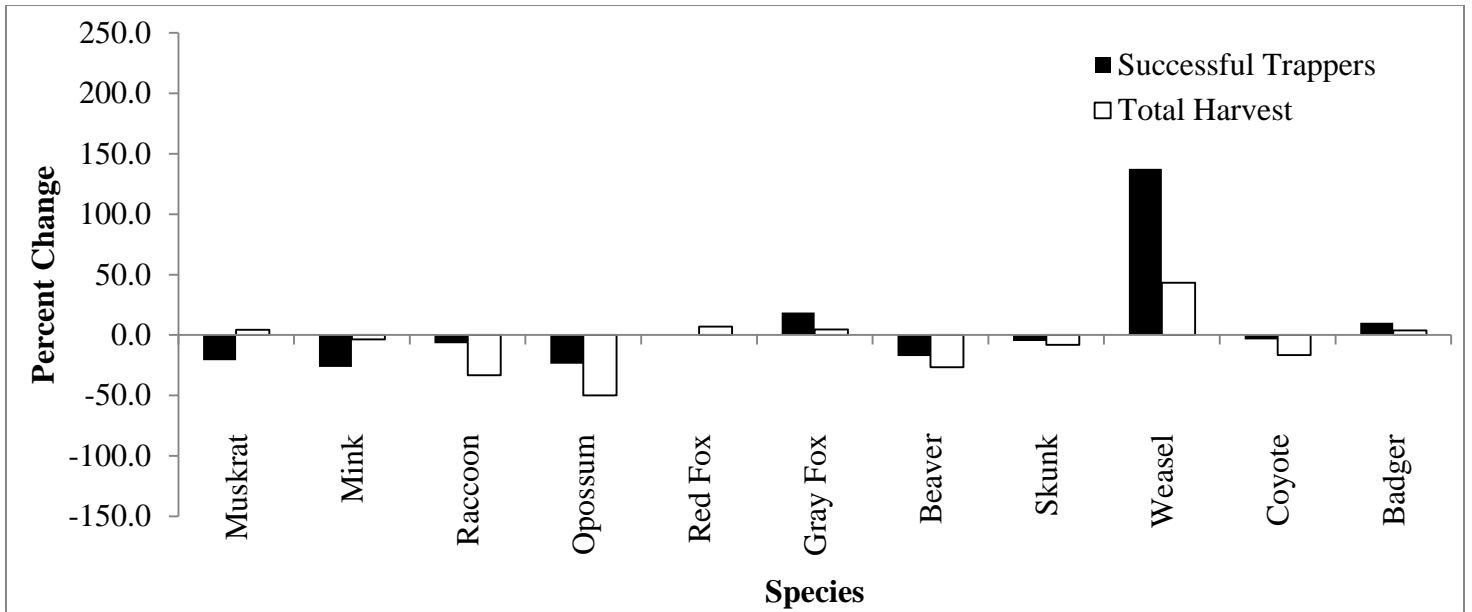


Figure 7. Percent change in number of successful trappers and harvest by species between 2013 and 2014 license years.

Extended Season for Mink and Muskrat

About 6% of trappers utilized the extended spring season for mink and muskrat, harvesting 76 mink and 1,599 muskrat.

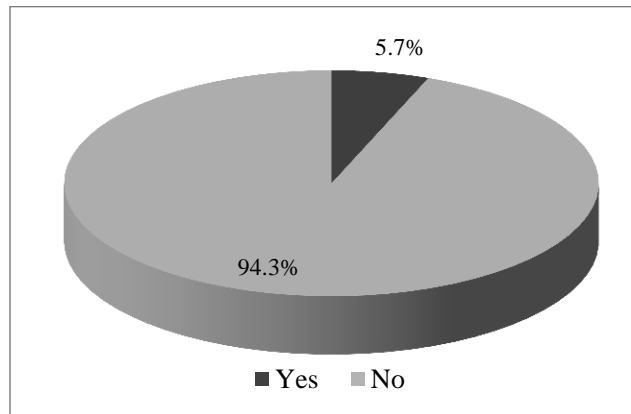


Figure 8. Trappers that trapped during the extended spring season for mink and muskrats (n=437).

Changes in Trapper Participation and Harvest

The number of Illinois residents participating in trapping increased 7% from 2013 (7,782 licenses) to 2014 (8,303 licenses). Average harvest per trapper decreased for all species except muskrat, red fox, gray fox, weasel, and badger. Muskrat harvest increased 4.3%, red fox increased 7.1%, gray fox 4.7%, weasel 43.4%, and badger 3.8%. The largest decreases in average harvest were for opossum (49.9%) and raccoon (33.3%).

Changes in trapper harvest over the past ten years (2004-2014) for each species type and for all species are shown in Figures 9-20.

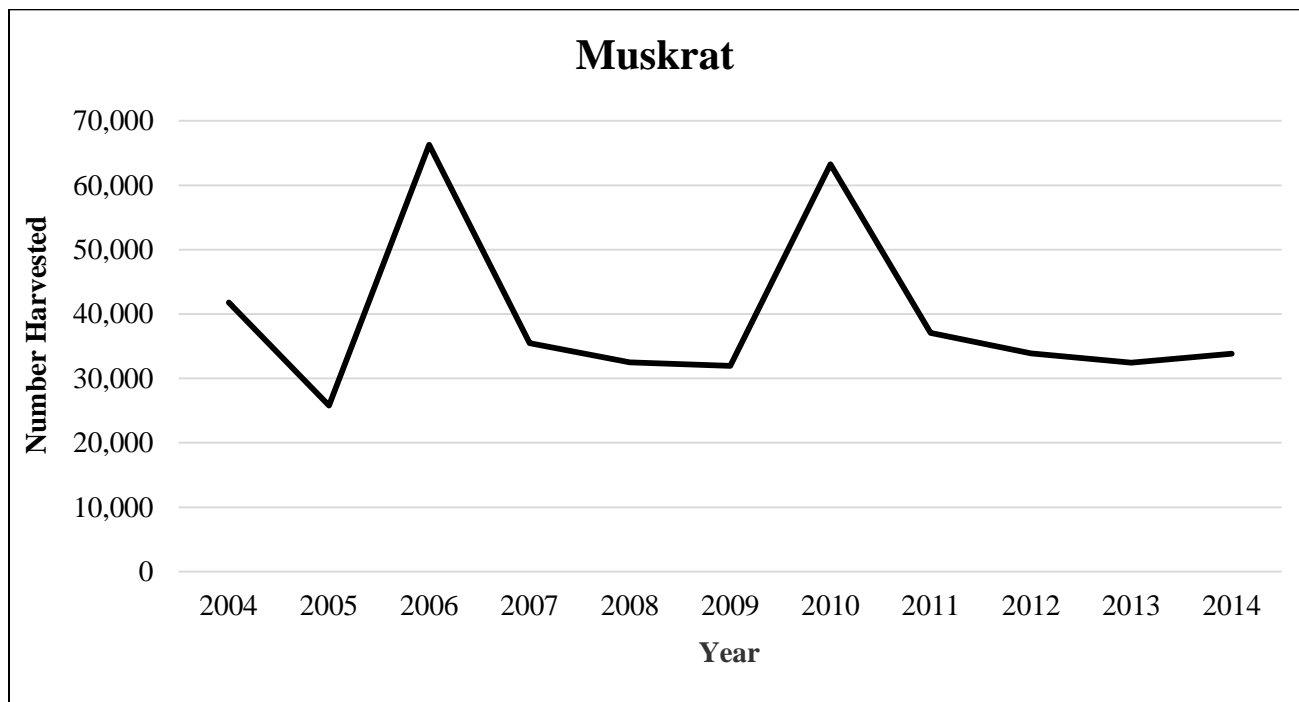


Figure 9. Muskrat harvest 2004 to 2014.

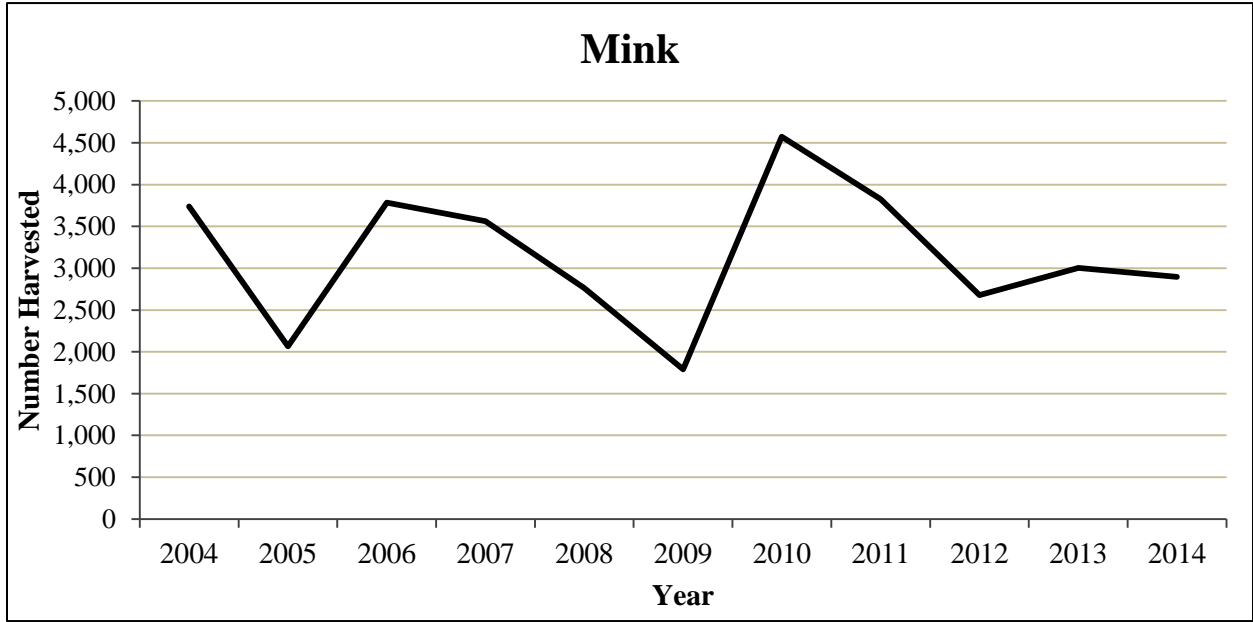


Figure 10. Mink harvest 2004 to 2014.

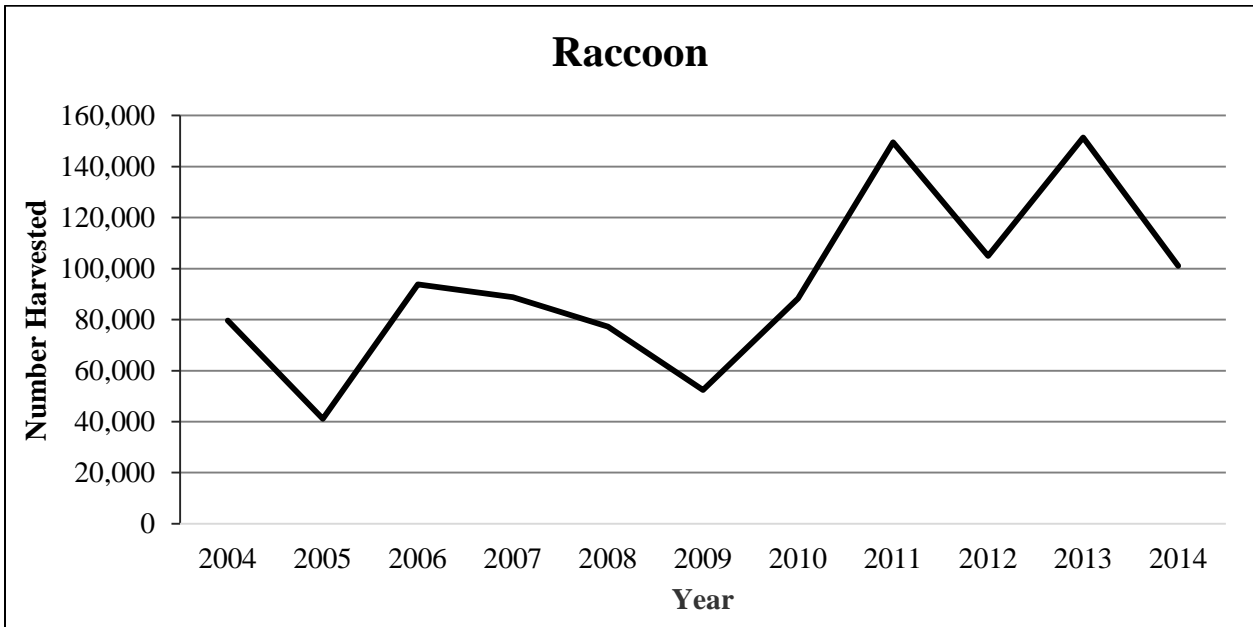


Figure 11. Raccoon harvest 2004 to 2014.

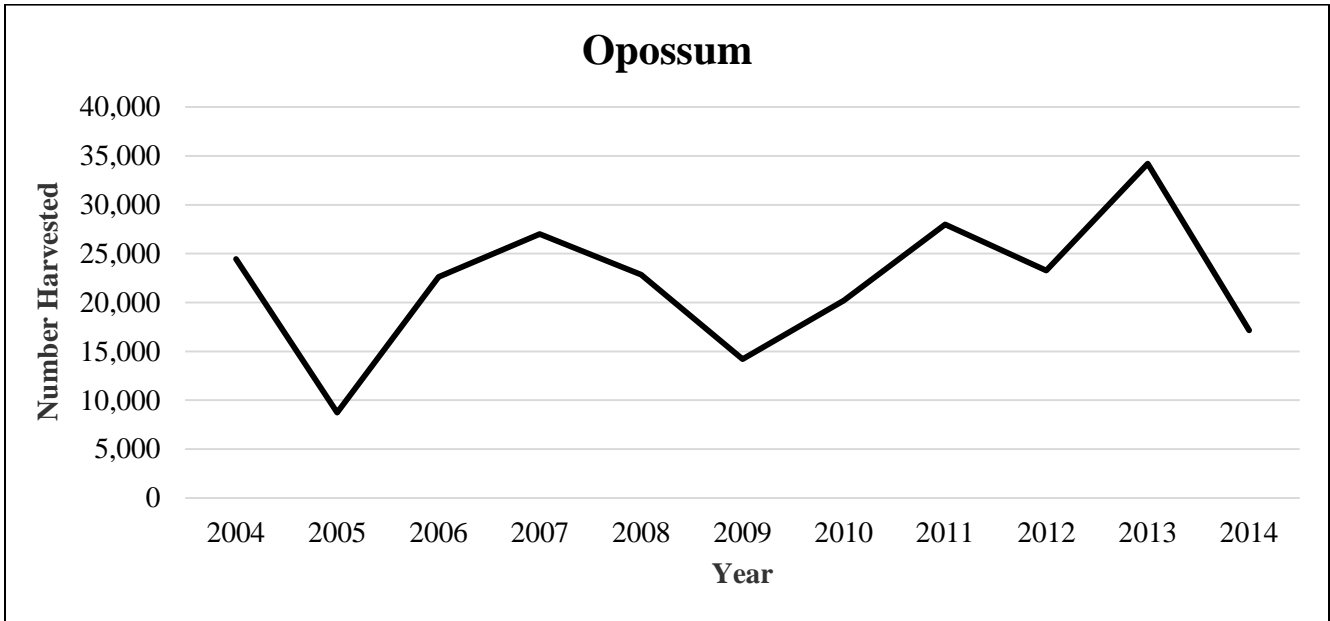


Figure 12. Opossum harvest 2004 to 2014.

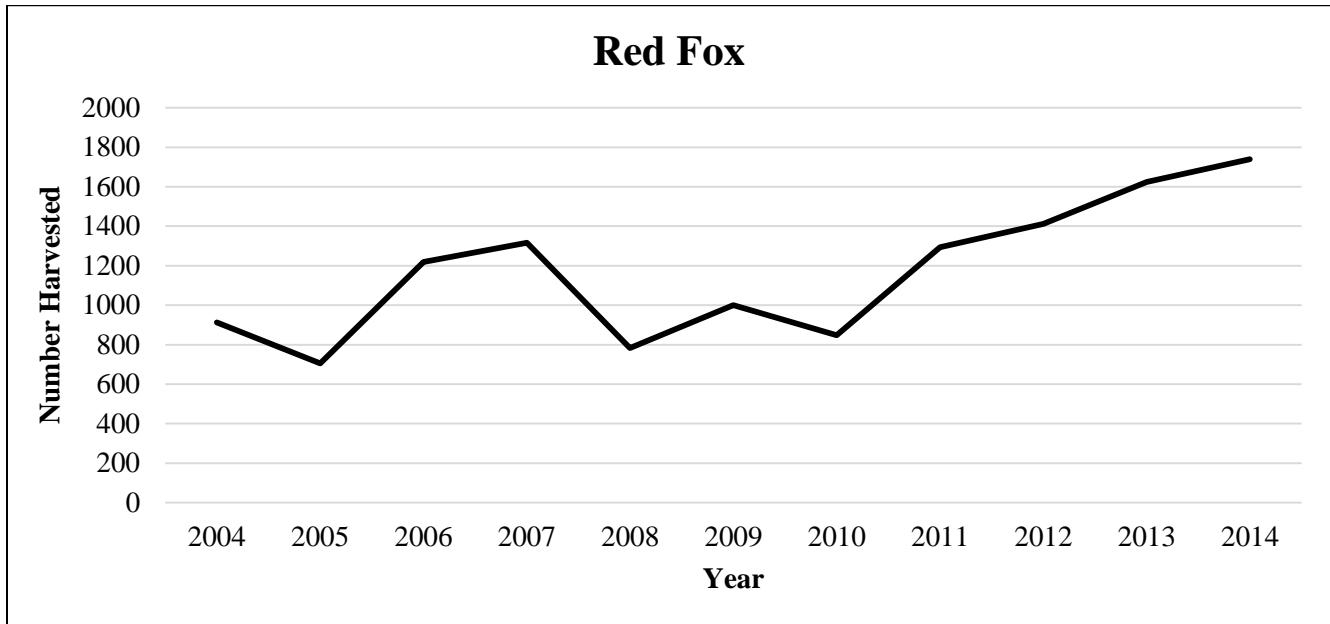


Figure 13. Red Fox harvest 2004 to 2014.

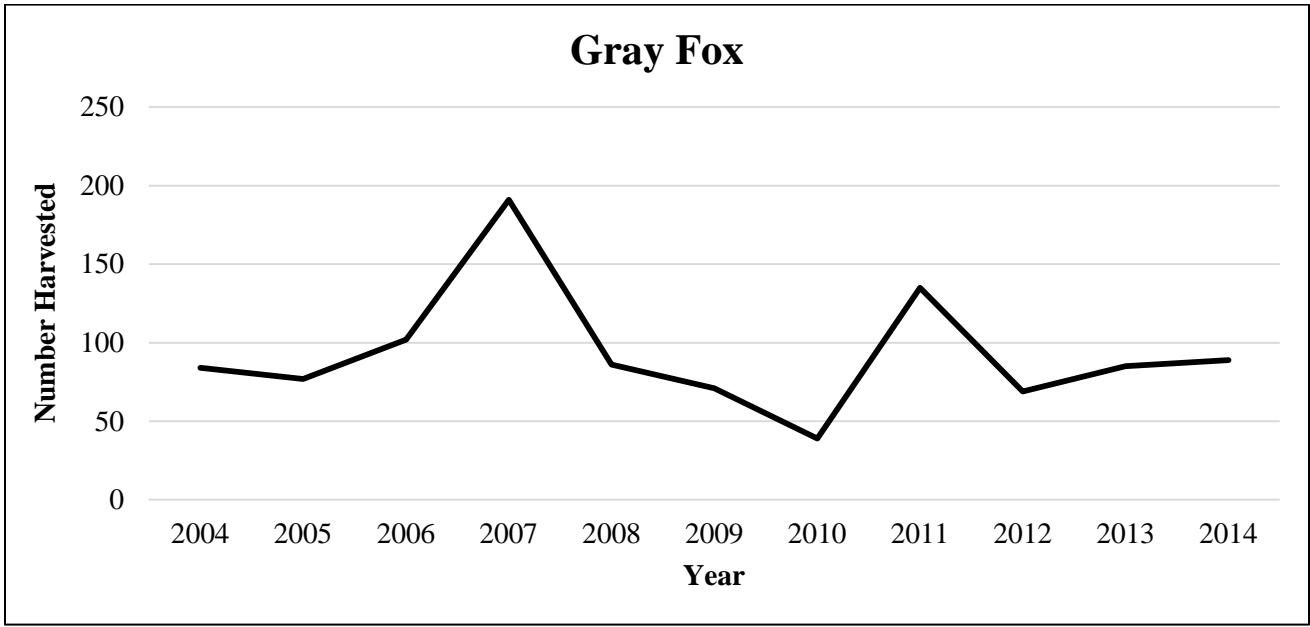


Figure 14. Gray Fox harvest 2004 to 2014.

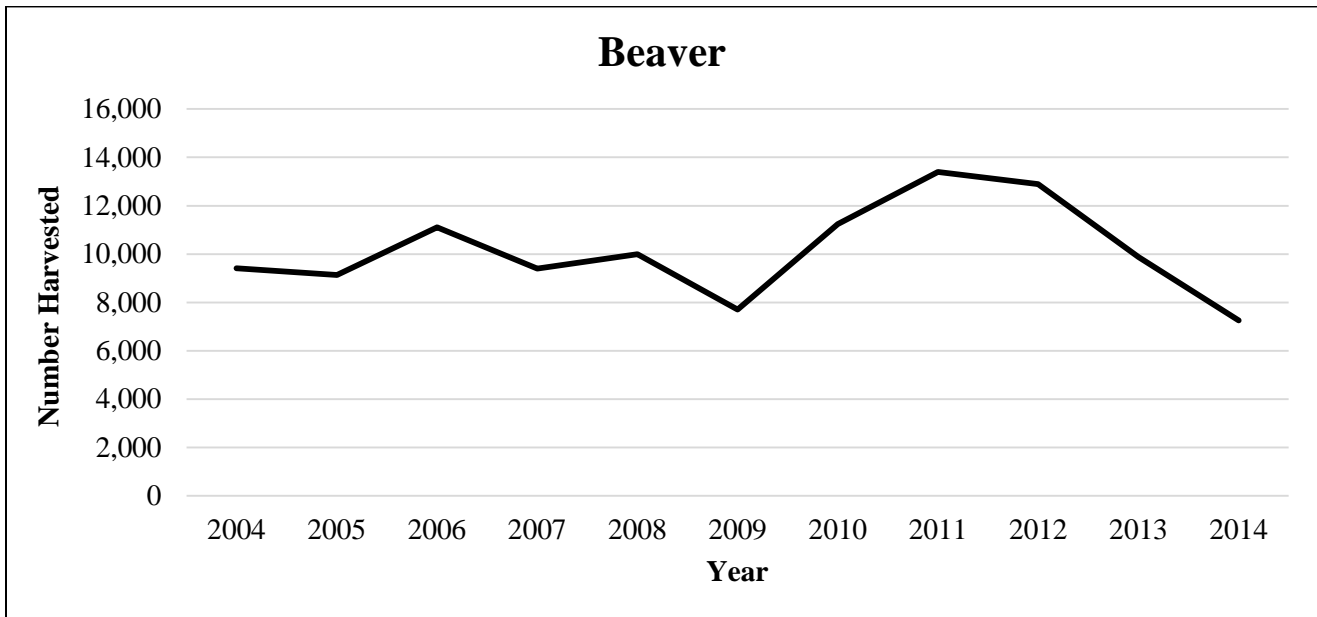


Figure 15. Beaver harvest 2004 to 2014.

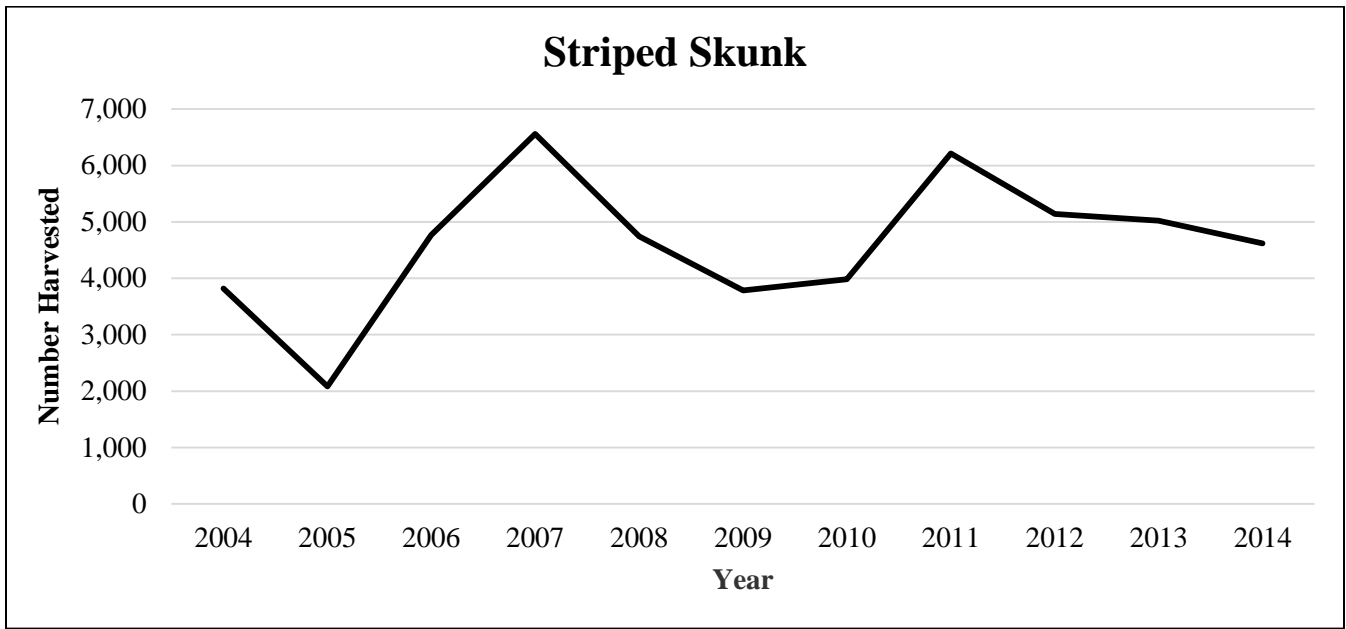


Figure 16. Striped Skunk harvest 2004 to 2014.

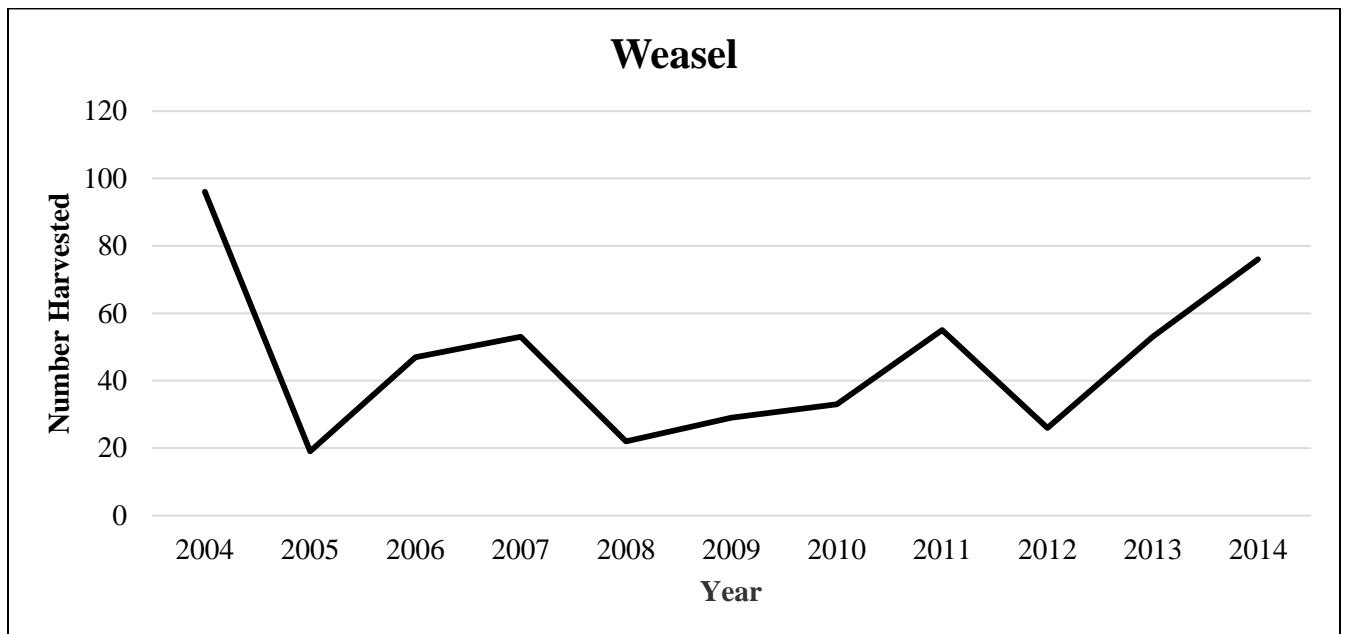


Figure 17. Weasel harvest 2004 to 2014.

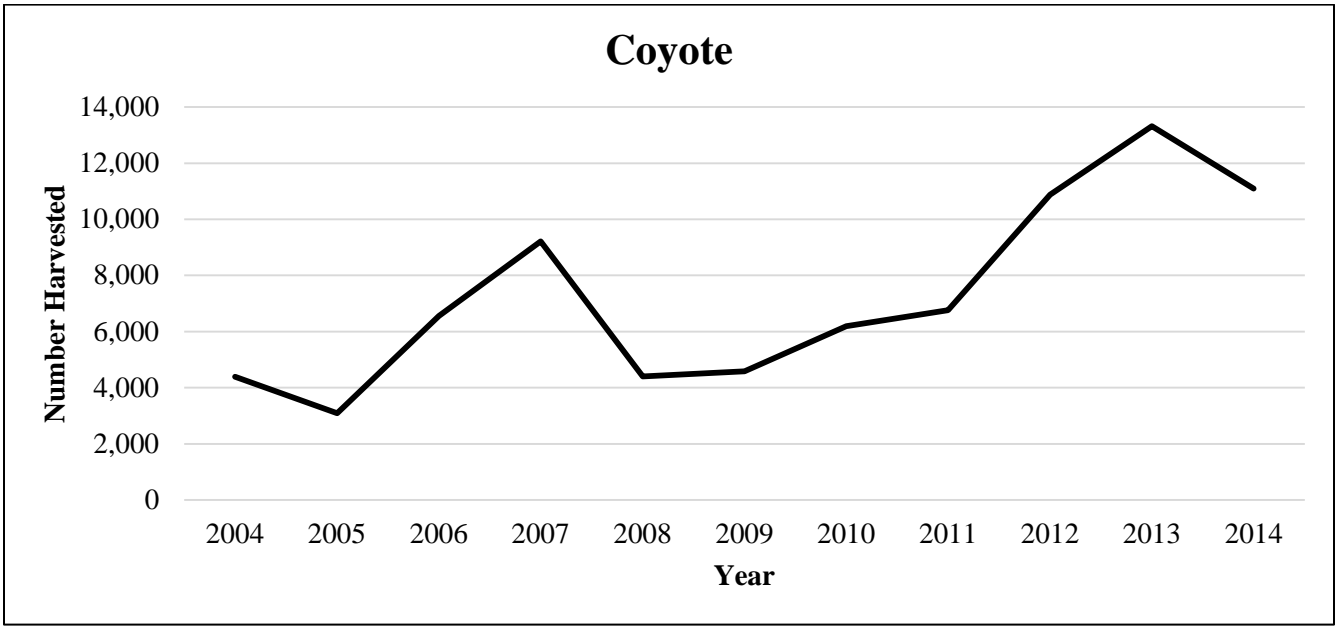


Figure 18. Coyote harvest 2004 to 2014.

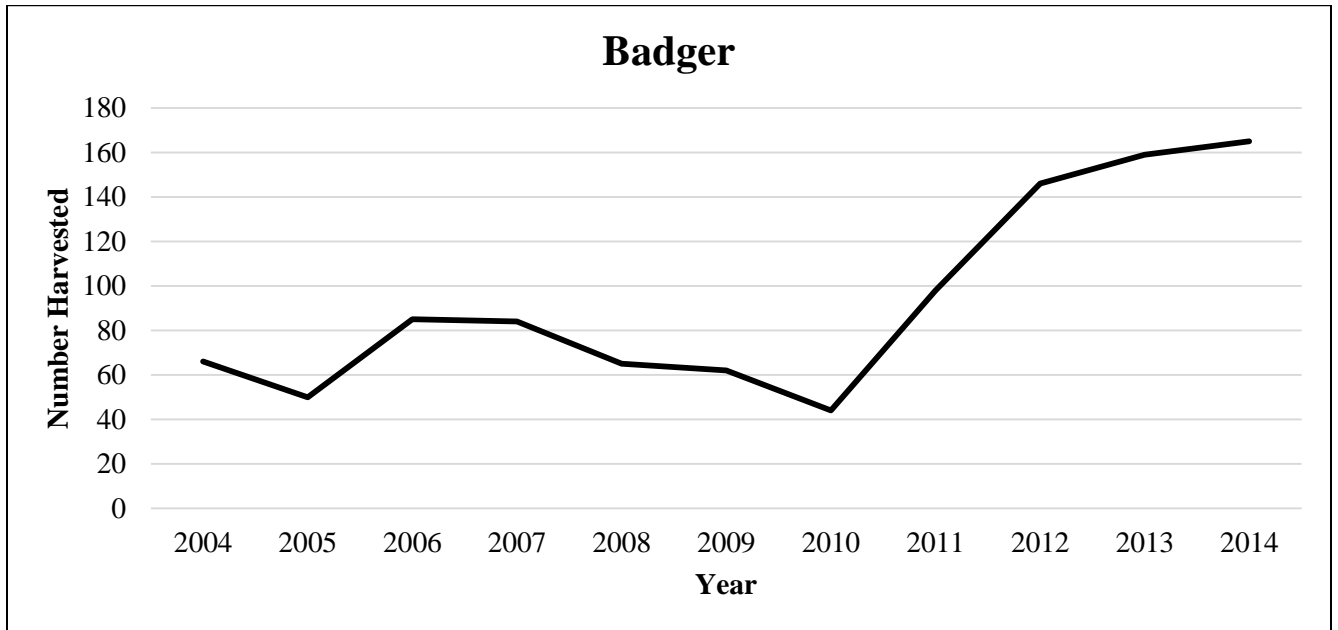


Figure 19. Badger harvest 2004 to 2014.

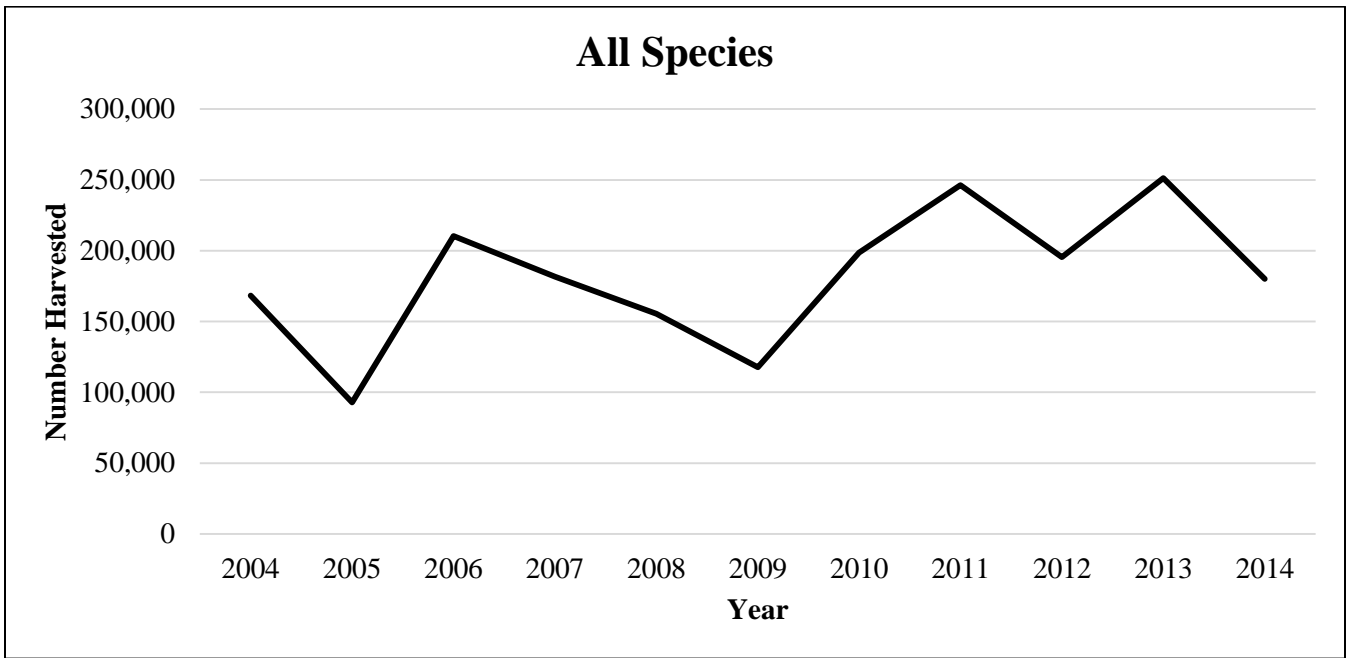


Figure 20. All species’ harvest 2004 to 2014.

Fur Hunting by Trappers

A total of 187 trappers, 29% of active trappers, reported hunting furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in 2014-2015 (Figure 21), which equates to an estimated 2,374 trappers who hunted furbearers in 2014-2015. Their total harvest was estimated to be 23,399 furbearers or an average of 9.9 furbearers per hunter (Table 28). More trappers hunted raccoon and coyotes than any other species.

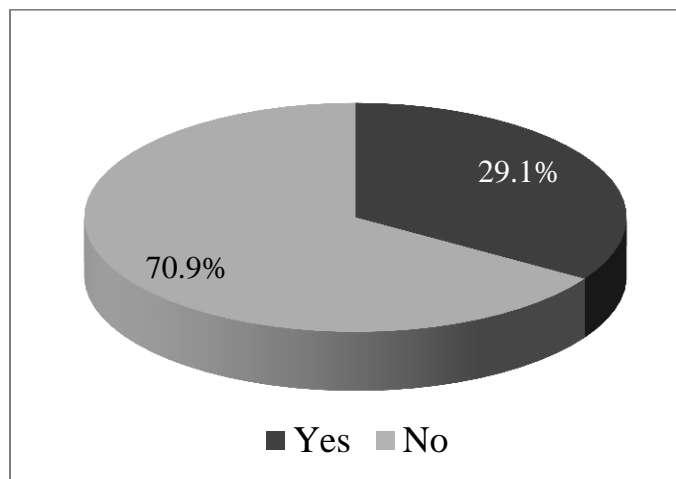


Figure 21. Trappers that hunted furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2014-2015 season (n=643).

Marketing information

Trappers were asked to identify what percentage of their harvest was sold in one of three conditions: whole in carcass, skinned (fresh or frozen), or skinned (fleshed, stretched, & dried). Trappers were most likely to participate in selling their harvest skinned, fresh or frozen (Figure 22). Among trappers who sold their catch as whole in-carcass, an average of 81.06% of their harvest was sold in that manner. Among trappers who sold their catch as skinned fresh or frozen, an average of 89.03% of the harvest was sold that way. Similarly, of those who sold their harvest as skinned (fleshed, stretched, and dried), a mean of 92.03 of their harvest was sold in that manner. The majority of trappers sold their harvest in a single manner (Figure 23).

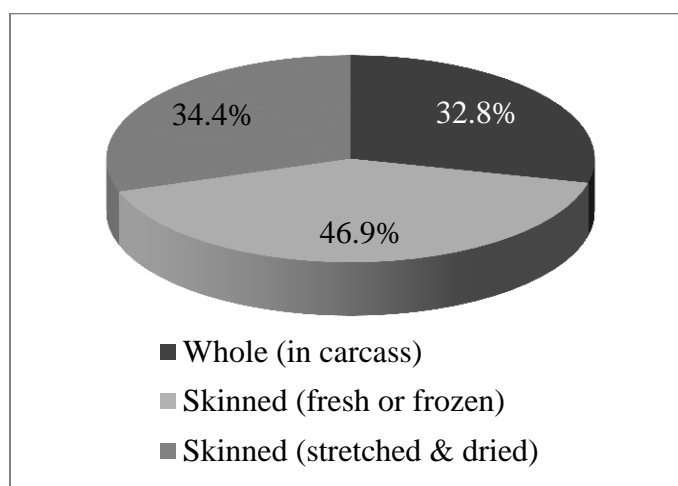


Figure 22. Condition that trappers sold their catch. Percentages are greater than 100% because 12.8% of trappers sold catch in multiple conditions.

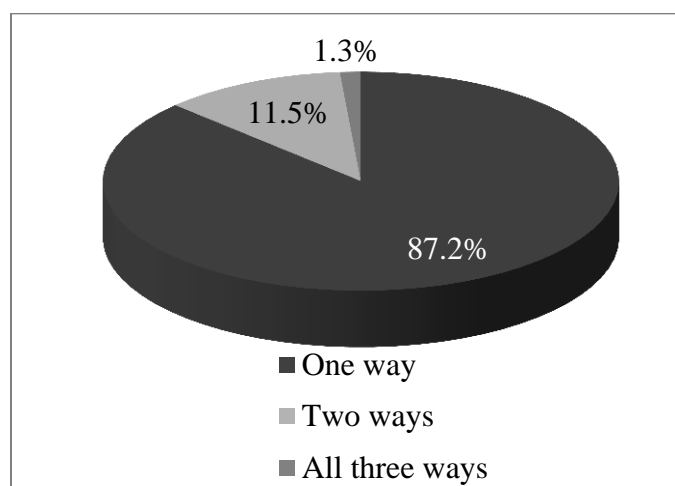


Figure 23. Percentage of trappers that sold their catch in one or more ways (whole in carcass, skinned (fresh or frozen), or skinned and dried).

Trappers were asked to identify what percentage of their catch was sold to one of four types of buyers: Local fur buyer, traveling fur buyer, international auctions, or auctions sponsored by a trapper's association. The majority, 94.1%, of trappers sold to one type of buyer, and 5.9% sold to two types of buyers. Trappers (46.9%) most often sold to local buyers, 31.3% sold to traveling buyers, 25.4% sold at international auctions, and 2.3% sold at trappers' association sponsored auctions. If a trapper sold to a local buyer, they sold an average of 95.4% of their harvest to the local buyer. Sellers to traveling buyers sold 94.2% of their harvest, sellers to international auctions 95.7%, and trappers' association sponsored sales were an average of 65.9%.

General Information

The primary species targeted by the majority of Illinois trappers were raccoon (58.5%), coyote (18.3%), and muskrat (8.9%) (Figure 24). During the 2014-2015 season, Illinois trappers were predominantly male, averaged 46 years of age and had been trapping for an average of 17 years (Figure 25). Nineteen percent of the trappers indicated that the 2014 trapping season was the first season they had ever trapped in Illinois, 51% of the trappers trapped every year, and 30% said they recently returned to trapping in Illinois because of fur prices (Figure 26). Over 60% of trappers began trapping when they were between 10 and 19 years old (Figure 27). The majority of trappers set traps on private land (Figure 28).

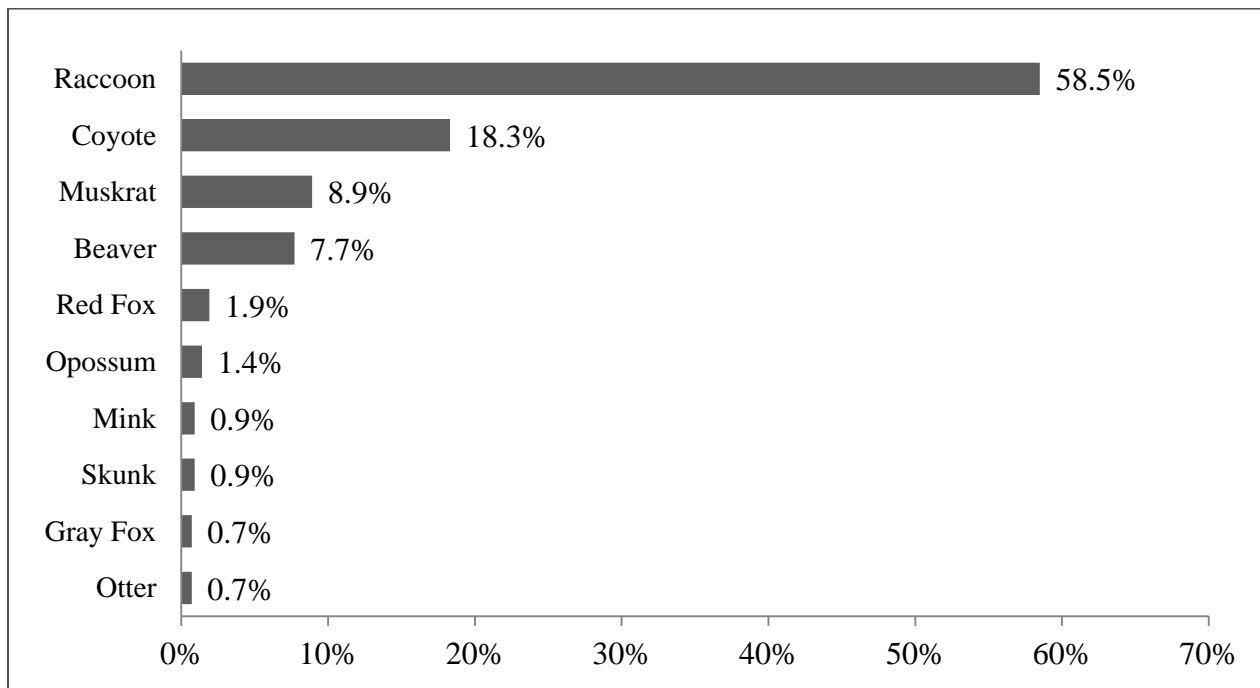


Figure 24. Primary target species of trappers ($n=426$).

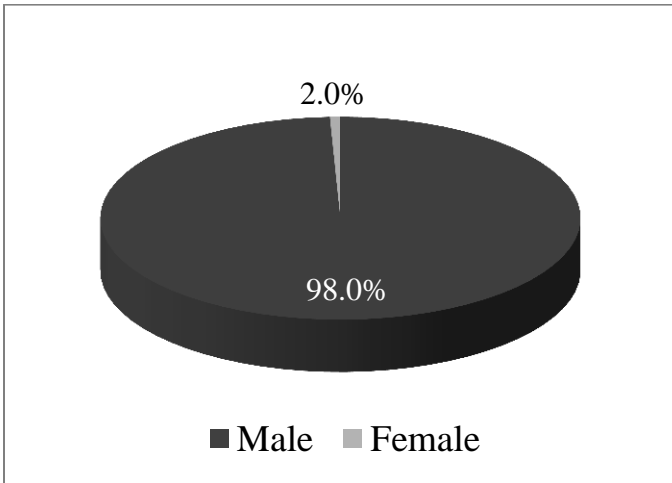


Figure 25. Gender of respondents (n=654).

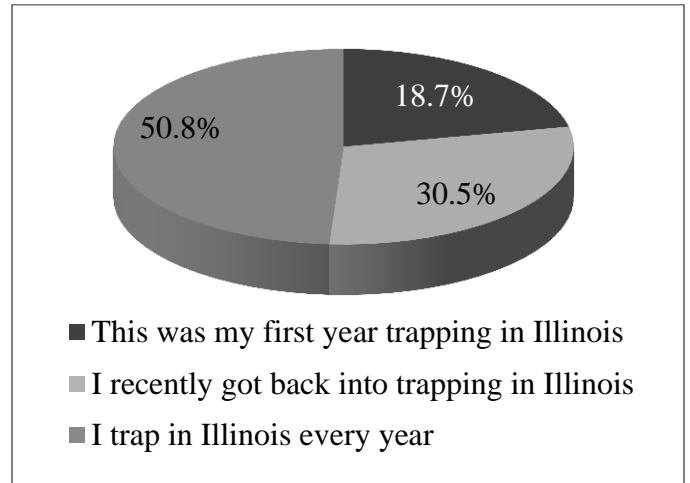


Figure 26. Description of respondents' trapping activities in Illinois (n=561).

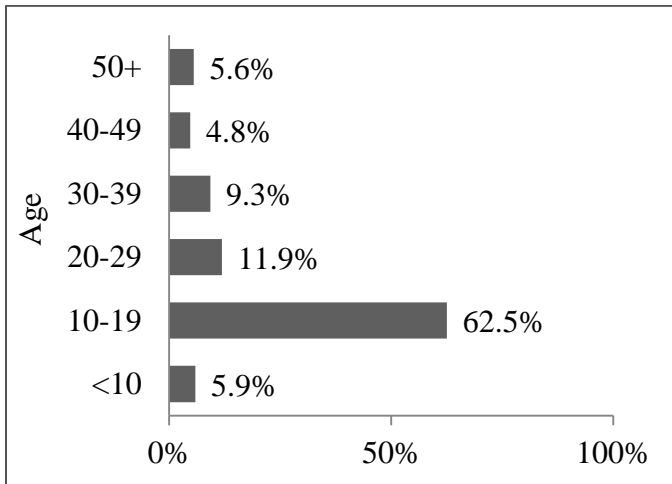


Figure 27. Age of trappers when they started trapping (n=623).

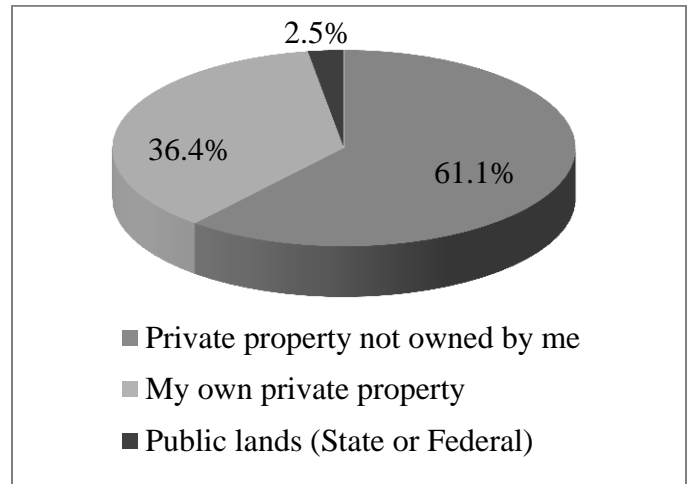


Figure 28. Description of respondents' trapping activities in Illinois (n=561).

Trappers were also asked to give their opinion of the amount of private and public land available for trapping in the region in which they lived. Over 60% of trappers felt the amount of public land in the region in which they live was poor or very poor. Twenty-four percent felt there was a fair amount of public land available. Almost 45% of trappers felt the amount of private land available in their region was good to excellent and 29.2% felt that there was a fair amount (Figure 29). The counties which reported the greatest number of

active trappers were Carroll, McDonough, and Randolph (Table 29), while the highest densities of trapper residences were in Macoupin, Randolph, Stephenson, and Whiteside counties (Table 30).

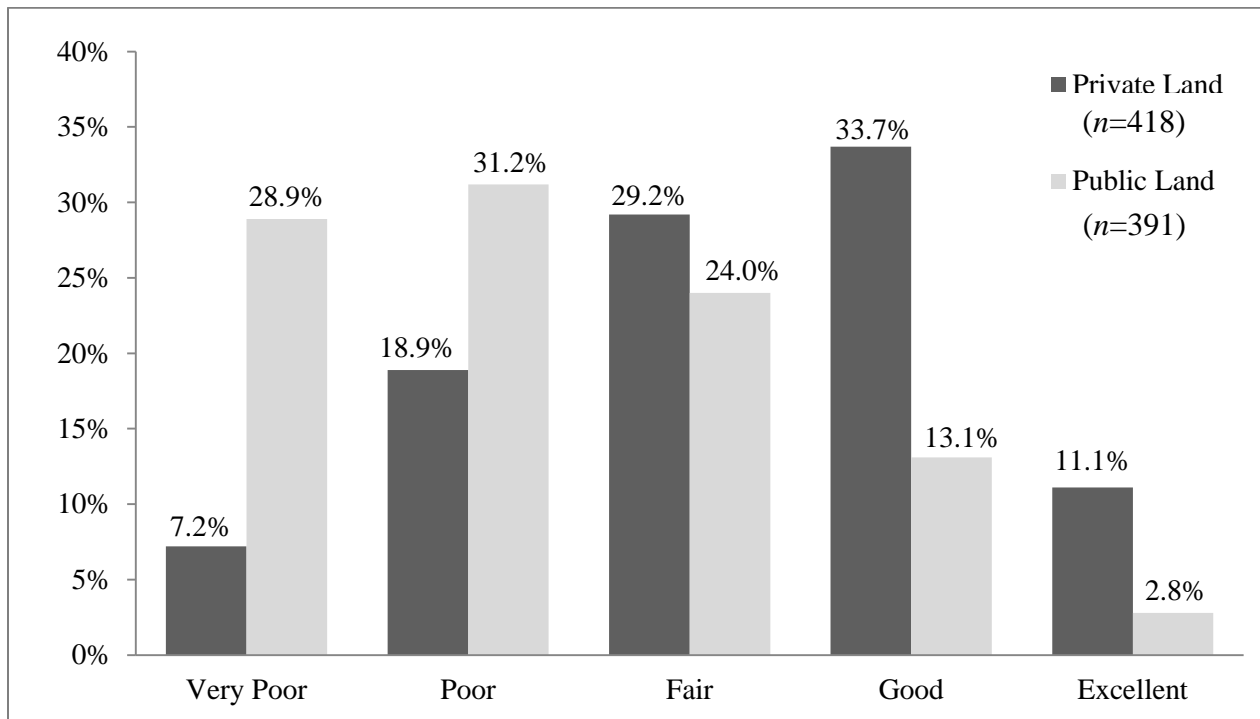


Figure 29. Opinion of amount of land (private and public) available for trapping.

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Table 1. Participation and harvest by fur trappers in Illinois, 2014-2015 season ($n=654$).

| Species | Number of Reported Successful Trappers | % (Total Respondents) | Reported Harvest by Successful Trappers |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| Muskrat | 122 | 18.7 | 2,667 |
| Mink | 69 | 10.6 | 228 |
| Raccoon | 352 | 53.8 | 7,958 |
| Opossum | 162 | 24.8 | 1,351 |
| Red fox | 56 | 8.6 | 137 |
| Gray fox | 6 | 0.9 | 7 |
| Beaver | 109 | 16.7 | 571 |
| Striped skunk | 85 | 13.0 | 364 |
| Weasel | 6 | 0.9 | 6 |
| Coyote | 132 | 20.2 | 874 |
| Badger | 12 | 1.8 | 13 |

Table 2. Distribution of reported furbearer harvest among successful trappers in Illinois based on responses to the 2014-2015 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> = | 122 | 69 | 352 | 162 | 56 | 6 | 109 | 85 | 6 | 132 | 12 |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| 1-5 | 41.8 | 89.9 | 30.1 | 65.4 | 89.3 | 100.0 | 74.3 | 80.0 | 100.0 | 65.9 | 100.0 |
| 6-10 | 16.4 | 5.8 | 19.0 | 14.2 | 7.1 | 0.0 | 11.0 | 12.9 | 0.0 | 19.7 | 0.0 |
| 11-15 | 6.6 | 2.9 | 10.6 | 9.3 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 6.4 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 4.6 | 0.0 |
| 16-20 | 7.3 | 0.0 | 10.8 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.7 | 0.0 |
| 21-25 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 3.9 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| >25 | 27.0 | 1.4 | 25.6 | 7.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 5.3 | 0.0 |

Table 3. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of resident trappers in Illinois, 2014-2015 ($n=654$), 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 | 1,549 ± 253 | 18.65 | 21.86 ± 6.09 | 33,860 ± 10,199 | 93.93 | 31,803 |
| Mink | 876 ± 199 | 10.55 | 3.30 ± 1.45 | 2,895 ± 1,334 | 88.60 | 2,565 |
| Raccoon | 4,469 ± 324 | 53.82 | 22.61 ± 3.53 | 101,035 ± 16,265 | 86.87 | 87,767 |
| Opossum | 2,057 ± 280 | 24.77 | 8.34 ± 2.18 | 17,152 ± 4,726 | 22.87 | 3,923 |
| Red fox | 711 ± 182 | 8.56 | 2.45 ± 0.73 | 1,739 ± 634 | 87.59 | 1,524 |
| Gray fox | 76 ± 62 | 0.92 | 1.17 ± .33 | 89 ± 72 | 42.86 | 38 |
| Beaver | 1,384 ± 242 | 16.67 | 5.24 ± 1.29 | 7,249 ± 2,040 | 79.86 | 5,789 |
| Striped Skunk | 1,079 ± 218 | 13.00 | 4.28 ± 1.41 | 4,621 ± 1,669 | 19.51 | 901 |
| Weasel | 76 ± 62 | 0.92 | 1.00 ± 0.00 | 76 ± 57 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Coyote | 1,676 ± 261 | 20.18 | 6.62 ± 1.95 | 11,096 ± 3,452 | 64.76 | 7,186 |
| Badger | 152 ± 87 | 1.83 | 1.08 ± 0.16 | 165 ± 90 | 38.46 | 63 |

Table 4. Summary of 2014 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=122$).

| Wildlife Management Unit | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Total Trapper Harvest | Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ² |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Northwest Hills | 216 | 13.9 | 2.3 | 29.7 | 6,411 | 68.2 |
| Northeast Moraine | 51 | 3.3 | 0.6 | 33.8 | 1,714 | 20.7 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 63 | 4.1 | 0.8 | 23.6 | 1,498 | 19.1 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 178 | 11.5 | 1.3 | 17.4 | 3,098 | 22.7 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 165 | 10.7 | 1.1 | 32.5 | 5,358 | 37.2 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 76 | 4.9 | 1.8 | 4.0 | 305 | 7.3 |
| Grand Prairie | 521 | 33.6 | 1.0 | 26.0 | 13,509 | 25.7 |
| Southern Plain | 216 | 13.9 | 0.9 | 6.0 | 1,295 | 5.5 |
| Wabash Border | 38 | 2.5 | 0.6 | 10.7 | 406 | 6.0 |
| Shawnee Hills | 25 | 1.6 | 0.5 | 10.5 | 267 | 5.1 |
| Statewide | 1,549 | 100.0 | 1.1 | 21.9 | 33,860 | 23.2 |

Table 5. Summary of 2014 MINK 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 | 127 | 14.5 | 1.4 | 3.9 | 521 | 5.5 |
| Northeast Moraine | 38 | 4.3 | 0.5 | 3.0 | 114 | 1.4 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 13 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 13 | 0.2 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 51 | 5.8 | 0.4 | 3.0 | 152 | 1.1 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 38 | 4.3 | 0.3 | 1.7 | 63 | 0.4 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 38 | 4.3 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 63 | 1.5 |
| Grand Prairie | 419 | 47.8 | 0.8 | 3.9 | 1,625 | 3.1 |
| Southern Plain | 127 | 14.5 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 216 | 0.9 |
| Wabash Border | 13 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 13 | 0.2 |
| Shawnee Hills | 13 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 9.0 | 114 | 2.2 |
| Statewide | 876 | 100.0 | 0.6 | 3.3 | 2,895 | 2.0 |

Table 6. Summary of 2014 RACCOON trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=352$).

| Wildlife Management Unit | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Total Trapper Harvest | Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ² |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Northwest Hills | 533 | 11.9 | 5.7 | 23.2 | 12,353 | 131.4 |
| Northeast Moraine | 152 | 3.4 | 1.8 | 5.7 | 863 | 10.4 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 292 | 6.5 | 3.7 | 24.6 | 7,173 | 91.4 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 609 | 13.6 | 4.5 | 21.1 | 12,886 | 94.2 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 571 | 12.8 | 4.0 | 24.4 | 13,940 | 96.7 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 114 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 19.8 | 2,260 | 54.5 |
| Grand Prairie | 1,168 | 26.1 | 2.2 | 22.8 | 26,687 | 50.7 |
| Southern Plain | 749 | 16.8 | 3.2 | 25.9 | 19,412 | 81.8 |
| Wabash Border | 165 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 25.3 | 4,177 | 62.0 |
| Shawnee Hills | 114 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 11.2 | 1,282 | 24.6 |
| Statewide | 4,469 | 100.0 | 3.1 | 22.6 | 101,035 | 69.2 |

Table 7. Summary of 2014 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=162$).

| Wildlife Management Unit | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Total Trapper Harvest | Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ² |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Northwest Hills | 305 | 14.8 | 3.2 | 6.2 | 1,879 | 20.0 |
| Northeast Moraine | 51 | 2.5 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 89 | 1.1 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 140 | 6.8 | 1.8 | 4.5 | 622 | 7.9 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 317 | 15.4 | 2.3 | 12.1 | 3,847 | 28.1 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 305 | 14.8 | 2.1 | 7.3 | 2,209 | 15.3 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 63 | 3.1 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 76 | 1.8 |
| Grand Prairie | 470 | 22.8 | 0.9 | 7.1 | 3,339 | 6.3 |
| Southern Plain | 292 | 14.2 | 1.2 | 14.1 | 4,114 | 17.3 |
| Wabash Border | 63 | 3.1 | 0.9 | 6.6 | 419 | 6.2 |
| Shawnee Hills | 51 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 11.0 | 559 | 10.7 |
| Statewide | 2,057 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 8.3 | 17,152 | 11.7 |

Table 8. Summary of 2014 RED FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=56$).

| Wildlife Management Unit | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Total Trapper Harvest | Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ² |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Northwest Hills | 51 | 7.1 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 76 | 0.8 |
| Northeast Moraine | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mississippi Border-North | 51 | 7.1 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 51 | 0.6 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 89 | 12.5 | 0.6 | 3.9 | 343 | 2.5 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 89 | 12.5 | 0.6 | 1.6 | 140 | 1.0 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 25 | 3.6 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 25 | 0.6 |
| Grand Prairie | 203 | 28.6 | 0.4 | 2.6 | 521 | 1.0 |
| Southern Plain | 127 | 17.9 | 0.5 | 2.2 | 279 | 1.2 |
| Wabash Border | 63 | 8.9 | 0.9 | 4.0 | 254 | 3.8 |
| Shawnee Hills | 13 | 1.8 | 0.2 | 4.0 | 51 | 1.0 |
| Statewide | 711 | 100.0 | 0.5 | 2.4 | 1,739 | 1.2 |

Table 9. Summary of 2014 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=6$).

| Wildlife Management Unit | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Total Trapper Harvest | Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ² |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Northwest Hills | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Northeast Moraine | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mississippi Border-North | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mississippi Border-South | 13 | 16.7 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 13 | 0.1 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Central Sand Prairie | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Prairie | 13 | 16.7 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 13 | 0.0 |
| Southern Plain | 25 | 33.0 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 25 | 0.1 |
| Wabash Border | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Shawnee Hills | 25 | 33.3 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 38 | 0.7 |
| Statewide | 76 | 100.0 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 89 | 0.1 |

Table 10. Summary of 2014 BEAVER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=109$).

| Wildlife Management Unit | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Total Trapper Harvest | Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ² |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Northwest Hills | 178 | 12.8 | 1.9 | 5.5 | 978 | 10.4 |
| Northeast Moraine | 38 | 2.8 | 0.5 | 6.0 | 229 | 2.8 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 13 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 25.0 | 317 | 4.0 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 152 | 11.0 | 1.1 | 4.8 | 724 | 5.3 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 127 | 9.2 | 0.9 | 5.1 | 647 | 4.5 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 38 | 2.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 38 | 0.9 |
| Grand Prairie | 521 | 37.6 | 1.0 | 5.5 | 2,857 | 5.4 |
| Southern Plain | 203 | 14.7 | 0.9 | 3.3 | 673 | 2.8 |
| Wabash Border | 63 | 4.6 | 0.9 | 8.2 | 521 | 7.7 |
| Shawnee Hills | 51 | 3.7 | 1.0 | 5.3 | 267 | 5.1 |
| Statewide | 1,384 | 100.0 | 0.9 | 5.2 | 7,249 | 5.0 |

Table 11. Summary of 2014 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=85$).

| Wildlife Management Unit | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Total Trapper Harvest | Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ² |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Northwest Hills | 241 | 22.4 | 2.6 | 4.1 | 978 | 10.4 |
| Northeast Moraine | 38 | 3.5 | 0.5 | 3.3 | 127 | 1.5 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 76 | 7.1 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 102 | 1.3 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 114 | 10.6 | 0.8 | 4.4 | 508 | 3.7 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 127 | 11.8 | 0.9 | 6.9 | 876 | 6.1 |
| Central Sand Prairie | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Prairie | 254 | 23.5 | 0.5 | 4.9 | 1,244 | 2.4 |
| Southern Plain | 203 | 18.8 | 0.9 | 3.6 | 736 | 3.1 |
| Wabash Border | 13 | 1.2 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 13 | 0.2 |
| Shawnee Hills | 13 | 1.2 | 0.2 | 3.0 | 38 | 0.7 |
| Statewide | 1,079 | 100.0 | 0.7 | 4.3 | 4,621 | 3.2 |

Table 12. Summary of 2014 WEASEL trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=6$).

| Wildlife Management Unit | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Total Trapper Harvest | Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ² |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Northwest Hills | 13 | 16.7 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 13 | 0.1 |
| Northeast Moraine | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mississippi Border-North | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mississippi Border-South | 25 | 33.3 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 25 | 0.2 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 13 | 16.7 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 13 | 0.1 |
| Central Sand Prairie | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Prairie | 25 | 33.3 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 25 | 0.0 |
| Southern Plain | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wabash Border | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Shawnee Hills | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Statewide | 76 | 100.0 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 76 | 0.1 |

Table 13. Summary of 2014 COYOTE trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=132$).

| Wildlife Management Unit | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Total Trapper Harvest | Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ² |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Northwest Hills | 178 | 10.6 | 1.9 | 7.1 | 1,257 | 13.4 |
| Northeast Moraine | 63 | 3.8 | 0.8 | 5.4 | 343 | 4.1 |
| Mississippi Border-North | 89 | 5.3 | 1.1 | 3.7 | 330 | 4.2 |
| Mississippi Border-South | 254 | 15.2 | 1.9 | 11.6 | 2,933 | 21.4 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 178 | 10.6 | 1.2 | 5.9 | 1,041 | 7.2 |
| Central Sand Prairie | 51 | 3.0 | 1.2 | 6.0 | 305 | 7.3 |
| Grand Prairie | 597 | 35.6 | 1.1 | 6.8 | 4,075 | 7.7 |
| Southern Plain | 178 | 10.6 | 0.7 | 3.2 | 571 | 2.4 |
| Wabash Border | 63 | 3.8 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 102 | 1.5 |
| Shawnee Hills | 25 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 5.5 | 140 | 2.7 |
| Statewide | 1,676 | 100.0 | 1.1 | 6.6 | 11,096 | 7.6 |

Table 14. Summary of 2014 BADGER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=12$).

| Wildlife Management Unit | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Total Trapper Harvest | Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ² |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Northwest Hills | 25 | 16.7 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 25 | 0.3 |
| Northeast Moraine | 13 | 8.3 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 13 | 0.2 |
| Mississippi Border-North | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mississippi Border-South | 13 | 8.3 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 13 | 0.1 |
| Western Prairie/Forest | 25 | 16.7 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 25 | 0.2 |
| Central Sand Prairie | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Prairie | 76 | 50.0 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 89 | 0.2 |
| Southern Plain | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wabash Border | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Shawnee Hills | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Statewide | 152 | 100.0 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 165 | 0.1 |

Table 15. Summary of 2014 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=122$).

| Trapping Zone | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Harvest | % of Harvest | Estimated Harvest/100km ² |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| North | 990 | 63.9 | 1.2 | 26.3 | 26,090 | 77.1 | 31.9 |
| South | 559 | 36.1 | 0.9 | 13.9 | 7,770 | 22.9 | 12.1 |
| Statewide | 1,549 | 100.0 | 1.1 | 21.9 | 33,860 | 100.0 | 23.2 |

Table 16. Summary of 2014 MINK trapper and harvest data by 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 | 597 | 68.1 | 0.7 | 3.8 | 2,285 | 78.9 | 2.8 |
| South | 279 | 31.9 | 0.4 | 2.2 | 609 | 21.1 | 0.9 |
| Statewide | 876 | 100.0 | 0.6 | 3.3 | 2,895 | 100.0 | 2.0 |

Table 17. Summary of 2014 RACCOON trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=352$).

| Trapping Zone | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Harvest | % of Harvest | Estimated Harvest/100km ² |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| North | 2,539 | 56.8 | 3.1 | 22.9 | 58,186 | 57.6 | 71.1 |
| South | 1,930 | 43.2 | 3.0 | 22.2 | 42,849 | 42.4 | 66.7 |
| Statewide | 4,469 | 100.0 | 3.1 | 22.6 | 101,035 | 100.0 | 69.2 |

Table 18. Summary of 2014 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=162$).

| Trapping Zone | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Harvest | % of Harvest | Estimated Harvest/100km ² |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| North | 1,219 | 59.3 | 1.5 | 5.9 | 7,249 | 42.3 | 8.9 |
| South | 838 | 40.07 | 1.3 | 11.8 | 9,903 | 57.7 | 15.4 |
| Statewide | 2,057 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 8.3 | 17,152 | 100.0 | 11.7 |

Table 19. Summary of 2014 RED FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=56$).

| Trapping Zone | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/ 100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Harvest | % of Harvest | Estimated Harvest/ 100km ² |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| North | 368 | 51.8 | 0.4 | 2.0 | 749 | 43.1 | 0.9 |
| South | 343 | 48.2 | 0.5 | 2.9 | 990 | 56.9 | 1.5 |
| Statewide | 711 | 100.0 | 0.5 | 2.4 | 1,739 | 100.0 | 1.2 |

Table 20. Summary of 2014 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=6$).

| Trapping Zone | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/ 100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Harvest | % of Harvest | Estimated Harvest/ 100km ² |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| North | 13 | 16.7 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 13 | 14.3 | 0.0 |
| South | 63 | 83.3 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 76 | 85.7 | 0.1 |
| Statewide | 76 | 100.0 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 89 | 100.0 | 0.1 |

Table 21. Summary of 2014 BEAVER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=109$).

| Trapping Zone | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/ 100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Harvest | % of Harvest | Estimated Harvest/ 100km ² |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| North | 774 | 56.0 | 0.9 | 6.2 | 4,774 | 65.8 | 5.9 |
| South | 609 | 44.0 | 0.9 | 4.1 | 2,476 | 34.2 | 3.9 |
| Statewide | 1,384 | 100.0 | 0.9 | 5.2 | 7,249 | 100.0 | 5.0 |

Table 22. Summary of 2014 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=85$).

| Trapping Zone | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/ 100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Harvest | % of Harvest | Estimated Harvest/ 100km ² |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| North | 711 | 65.9 | 0.9 | 4.5 | 3,212 | 69.5 | 3.9 |
| South | 368 | 34.1 | 0.6 | 3.8 | 1,409 | 30.5 | 2.2 |
| Statewide | 1,079 | 100.0 | 0.7 | 4.3 | 4,621 | 100.0 | 3.2 |

Table 23. Summary of 2014 WEASEL trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=6$).

| Trapping Zone | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/ 100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Harvest | % of Harvest | Estimated Harvest/ 100km ² |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| North | 38 | 50.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 38 | 50.0 | 0.0 |
| South | 38 | 50.0 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 38 | 50.0 | 0.1 |
| Statewide | 76 | 100.0 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 76 | 100.0 | 0.1 |

Table 24. Summary of 2014 COYOTE trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=132$).

| Trapping Zone | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/ 100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Harvest | % of Harvest | Estimated Harvest/ 100km ² |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| North | 965 | 57.6 | 1.2 | 6.4 | 6,183 | 55.7 | 7.6 |
| South | 711 | 42.4 | 1.1 | 6.9 | 4,913 | 44.3 | 7.6 |
| Statewide | 1,676 | 100.0 | 1.1 | 6.6 | 11,096 | 100.0 | 7.6 |

Table 25. Summary of 2014 BADGER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=12$).

| Trapping Zone | Estimated Trappers | % | Estimated Trappers/ 100km ² | Average Season Catch | Estimated Harvest | % of Harvest | Estimated Harvest/ 100km ² |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| North | 127 | 83.3 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 140 | 84.6 | 0.2 |
| South | 25 | 16.7 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 25 | 15.4 | 0.0 |
| Statewide | 152 | 100.0 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 165 | 100.0 | 0.1 |

Table 26. The number of pelts sold by successful trappers (i.e., caught ≥ 1 animal) for 11 species of furbearers in Illinois, 2014-2015 season ($n=654$).

| Species | Number of Pelts Sold | Pelts Sold in Illinois | | Pelts Sold Outside Illinois | |
|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| | | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Muskrat | 31,803 | 17,774 | 55.9 | 14,029 | 44.1 |
| Mink | 2,565 | 1,752 | 68.3 | 813 | 31.7 |
| Raccoon | 87,767 | 47,128 | 53.7 | 40,640 | 46.3 |
| Opossum | 3,923 | 2,882 | 73.5 | 1,041 | 26.5 |
| Red fox | 1,524 | 813 | 53.3 | 711 | 46.7 |
| Gray fox | 38 | 25 | 66.7 | 13 | 33.3 |
| Beaver | 5,789 | 3,060 | 52.9 | 2,730 | 47.1 |
| Striped skunk | 901 | 292 | 32.4 | 609 | 67.6 |
| Weasel | - | - | - | - | - |
| Coyote | 7,186 | 3,542 | 49.3 | 3,644 | 50.7 |
| Badger | 63 | 38 | 60.0 | 25 | 40.0 |
| Total | 141,560 | 77,306 | 54.6 | 64,254 | 45.4 |

Table 27. Estimated statewide harvest by resident Illinois trappers, 2004-2014.

| Season | Muskrat | Mink | Raccoon | Opossum | Red Fox | Gray Fox |
|--------|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 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 |
| 2014 | 33,860 | 2,895 | 101,035 | 17,152 | 1,739 | 89 |

| Season | Beaver | Striped Skunk | Weasel | Coyote | Badger | All Species |
|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
| 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 |
| 2014 | 7,249 | 4,621 | 76 | 11,096 | 165 | 179,978 |

Table 28. Summary of fur hunting activities reported by trappers^a in Illinois, 2014-2015.

| 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 | 102 | 1,331 | 13.0 | 15.6 | 16,898 |
| Opossum | 15 | 65 | 4.3 | 2.3 | 825 |
| Red fox | 10 | 22 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 279 |
| Gray fox | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 25 |
| Striped skunk | 4 | 29 | 7.3 | 0.6 | 368 |
| Coyote | 97 | 394 | 4.1 | 14.8 | 5,002 |
| All species | 187 ^{b,c} | 1,843 | 9.9 | 28.6 | 23,399 |

^a Active and inactive trappers.

^b Successful and unsuccessful hunters.

^c 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 2014-2015 Illinois Trapper Survey ($n=437$).

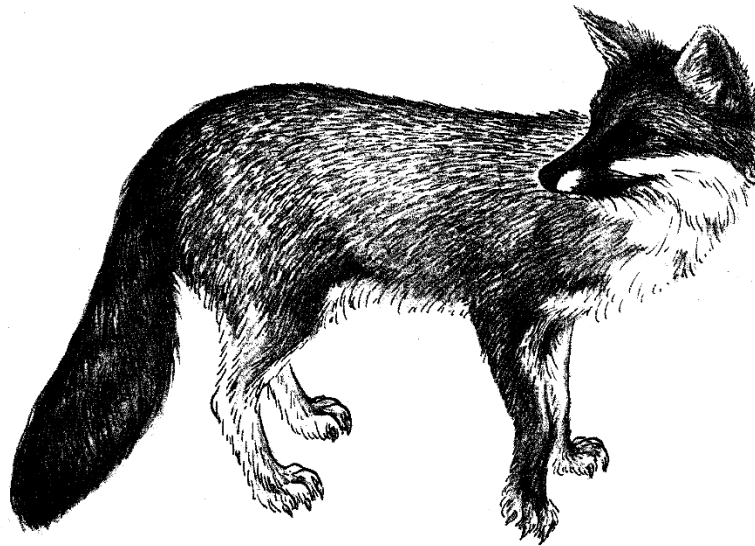
| County | <i>n</i> | County | <i>n</i> | County | <i>n</i> |
|------------|----------|------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Adams | 9 | Hardin | 1 | Morgan | 4 |
| Alexander | 2 | Henderson | 4 | Moultrie | 0 |
| Bond | 4 | Henry | 9 | Ogle | 3 |
| Boone | 1 | Iroquois | 6 | Peoria | 5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

Table 30. Distribution of respondents by county of residence ($n = 654$).

| County | <i>n</i> | County | <i>n</i> | County | <i>n</i> |
|------------|----------|------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Adams | 14 | Hardin | 2 | Morgan | 6 |
| Alexander | 2 | Henderson | 4 | Moultrie | 2 |
| Bond | 7 | Henry | 8 | Ogle | 7 |
| Boone | 2 | Iroquois | 5 | Peoria | 5 |
| Brown | 3 | Jackson | 4 | Perry | 7 |
| Bureau | 11 | Jasper | 3 | Piatt | 6 |
| Calhoun | 7 | Jefferson | 8 | Pike | 8 |
| Carroll | 14 | Jersey | 5 | Pope | 1 |
| Cass | 4 | JoDaviess | 8 | Pulaski | 3 |
| Champaign | 11 | Johnson | 2 | Putnam | 4 |
| Christian | 6 | Kane | 9 | Randolph | 18 |
| Clark | 5 | Kankakee | 10 | Richland | 7 |
| Clay | 7 | Kendall | 1 | Rock Island | 8 |
| Clinton | 10 | Knox | 13 | St. Clair | 13 |
| Coles | 2 | Lake | 7 | Saline | 3 |
| Cook | 9 | LaSalle | 9 | Sangamon | 7 |
| Crawford | 3 | Lawrence | 9 | Schuyler | 3 |
| Cumberland | 3 | Lee | 4 | Scott | 4 |
| DeKalb | 6 | Livingston | 2 | Shelby | 3 |
| DeWitt | 0 | Logan | 5 | Stark | 2 |
| Douglas | 6 | McDonough | 12 | Stephenson | 17 |
| DuPage | 4 | McHenry | 5 | Tazewell | 11 |
| Edgar | 4 | McLean | 11 | Union | 2 |
| Edwards | 2 | Macon | 7 | Vermilion | 7 |
| Effingham | 4 | Macoupin | 18 | Wabash | 2 |
| Fayette | 6 | Madison | 9 | Warren | 6 |
| Ford | 5 | Marion | 2 | Washington | 11 |
| Franklin | 1 | Marshall | 6 | Wayne | 2 |
| Fulton | 8 | Mason | 4 | White | 5 |
| Gallatin | 2 | Massac | 4 | Whiteside | 17 |
| Greene | 7 | Menard | 4 | Will | 9 |
| Grundy | 11 | Mercer | 7 | Williamson | 7 |
| Hamilton | 2 | Monroe | 6 | Winnebago | 9 |
| Hancock | 12 | Montgomery | 10 | Woodford | 9 |

Appendix A

Illinois Trapper Survey: 2014-15 Season



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



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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

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

Section 1. Effort and Harvest. Please answer the following questions about your furbearer trapping and hunting activities during the 2014-15 trapping season in Illinois.

1. Did you set any **traps** for furbearers in Illinois during the 2014-15 trapping season? (Please check **one**).

_____ Yes _____ No (Please skip to **Question 9**)

2. Complete each blank for all species **trapped** in Illinois during the 2014-15 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 2014-15 trapping season? (*Please indicate*)

_____ County

4. How many days (or nights) did you set traps during the 2014-15 trapping season?

_____ days (or nights)

5. What was the average number of traps you set on your trapline during the 2014-15 trapping season?

_____ traps

6. Did you attempt to trap otters during the 2014-15 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. Which of the following did you trap **only** on public land in 2014-15? (Please check **all that apply**).

- Muskrat Mink Otter Raccoon
- Opossum Red Fox Gray Fox Beaver
- Skunk Weasel Coyote Other (please identify) _____

9. Did you **hunt furbearers** with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2014-15 season? Yes No

9a. If “Yes,” **please give the number** of each species taken **by hunting**:

- Raccoon Red Fox Gray Fox
- Coyote Skunk Opossum

10. Which species was your **primary** target during 2014-15? (Please check **one**).

- Muskrat Mink Otter Raccoon
- Opossum Red Fox Gray Fox Beaver
- Skunk Weasel Coyote Other (please identify) _____

Please refer to the map on the back of the cover letter to answer questions 11 and 12.

11. Please give your opinion of the amount of **private** land available for trapping in the **region in which you live**?

| Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

12. Please give your opinion of the amount of **public** land available for trapping in the **region in which you live**?

| Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

Section 2. Marketing Practices. Please answer the following questions about how you marketed your furs that were harvested during the 2014-15 trapping season in Illinois.

If you did not sell any of the furs you harvested during the 2014-15 trapping season, please skip to Section 3.

1. Approximately what percentage of your catch was sold:

- a. Whole (in the carcass) _____ %
- b. Skinned (fresh or frozen) _____ %
- c. Skinned, fleshed, stretched, & dried _____ %

2. Approximately what percentage of your catch was sold to:

- a. Local fur buyers (operate from fixed place of business in IL or nearby state - you are paid immediately) _____ %

- b. Traveling fur buyers (stop at certain times in different towns - you are paid immediately) _____%
- c. International auctions (agent collects furs along a truck route - you are paid after furs are sold at auction) _____%
- d. Auction sponsored by trapper's association (you attend auction in person and are paid that day) _____%

Section 3. 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? _____ 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
8. In the last 12 months, on which of the following types of property did you set traps **most often**? (Please check **only one**).
 Public lands (State or Federal lands)
 My own private property
 Private property not owned by me

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

April 3, 2015

Dear Illinois Trapper,

Your name was selected from the list of 2014 Illinois trapping license purchasers. We are asking you to provide information about your trapping activities during the 2014-15 trapping season in Illinois. Even if you were not successful or did not trap in Illinois during the 2014-2015 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.

If you do not wish to participate, please return the blank questionnaire so we can remove your name from our mailing list.

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.

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

May 8, 2015

Dear Illinois Trapper,

You recently received a survey questionnaire requesting information about your trapping activities during the 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 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

2014-2015 Season Dates and Limits Information *(continued)*

| Furbearers—Hunting | SPECIES | DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES | HOURS | LIMIT |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---|---|----------|
| | Raccoon and Opossum | Nov. 5, 2014 - Feb. 10, 2015 (North) Nov. 10, 2014 - Feb. 15, 2015 (South) Closed Nov. 21 - 22 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 23 and closed Dec. 4 - 6 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 7 in counties open for firearm deer hunting | Unrestricted except Nov. 5 (North) and Nov. 10 (South) opens at sunrise ^d | No Limit |
| | Fox (Red and Gray) | Nov. 10, 2014 - Jan. 31, 2015 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 21 - 22 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 23 and closed Dec. 4 - 6 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 7 in counties open for firearm deer hunting | Unrestricted except Nov. 10 opens at sunrise ^d | |
| | Coyote and Striped Skunk | Year round (Statewide) Closed Nov. 21 - 22 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 23 and closed Dec. 4 - 6 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 7 in counties open for firearm deer hunting ^e | 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset; open 24 hours Nov. 10, 2014 - March 15, 2015 ^e | |

| Furbearers—Trapping | SPECIES | DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES | LIMIT | SPECIAL REGULATIONS |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| | Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, Mink, Muskrat, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote, Badger | Nov. 5, 2014 - Jan. 20, 2015 (North) Nov. 10, 2014 - Jan. 25, 2015 (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, 2014 (Statewide) | None | |
| | Beaver | Nov. 5, 2014 - March 31, 2015 (North) Nov. 10, 2014 - March 31, 2015 (South) | | |
| | River Otter | Nov. 5, 2014 - March 31, 2015 (North) Nov. 10, 2014 - March 31, 2015 (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 | Begins at sunset on Jan. 20, 2015 - closes at sunset on Feb. 15, 2015 (North) Begins at sunset on Jan. 25, 2015 - closes at sunset on Feb. 15, 2015 (South) | None | No foothold traps may be set for mink or muskrat. Body-gripping (killer) traps must be completely submerged underwater. | |

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

^b South — 1st season — April 6 - 10; 2nd season — April 11 - 16; 3rd season — April 17 - 22; 4th season — April 23 - 29; 5th season — April 30 - May 7
North — 1st season — April 13 - 17; 2nd season — April 18 - 23; 3rd season — April 24 - 29; 4th season — April 30 - May 6; 5th season — May 7 - 14

^c 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.

^d 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.

^e 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.

^f 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.

^g Antlered deer bag limit does not apply to this season.

Appendix F

Wildlife Management Units and Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois

