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2014-2015 Illinois Otter Trapper Report



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2014-2015 ILLINOIS OTTER TRAPPER REPORT

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

(Supplemental Report)

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Illinois Natural History Survey

Champaign, IL

August 31, 2015

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

W-112-R-24

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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ABSTRACT

Illinois otter trapping was reinstated during the 2012-2013 Illinois Furbearer Trapping season. During 2014-2015, the third year of reinstatement, 495 Illinois residents who trapped an otter were provided an otter permit; each otter trapper was mailed a 4-page questionnaire. We received 342 (74%) usable questionnaires. During the 2014-15 season, an average of 30 traps were set per trapper over the course of 43 days or nights. Respondents harvested an average of 2.2 otters (*Lontra canadensis*) for a total of 723 otters, which represented a 25% decrease from 2013-14. Participants also harvested 15,513 raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), 7,410 muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), and 2,557 opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) during the 2014-2015 Illinois trapping season. Trapper attitudes toward wildlife related issues and marketing practices were also examined.

OBJECTIVE

To survey otter permit holders to determine their activities, harvests, characteristics, and opinions in Illinois.

METHODS

All Illinois resident trappers who successfully harvested ≥ 1 otter are required by regulation to obtain an otter permit (CITES tag) within 48 hours of trapping the otter, with a limit up to 5 otters per trapper. We selected names and addresses for each of the 495 successful otter trappers from the list of otter permits provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Each trapper was mailed a 4-page questionnaire (Appendix A), cover letter (Appendix B), and a postage-paid return envelope on 3 April 2015. Nonrespondents were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) on 23 April 2015. On 7 May 2015, remaining nonrespondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D). Trappers who did not respond to the previous mailings were mailed a second thank you/reminder postcard on 27 May 2015. The initial sample of 495 licenses was reduced to 491 due to undeliverable addresses; 29 survey questionnaires received were incomplete and not used. Season date information is located in Appendix E.

RESULTS

A total of 371 license purchasers responded to the survey; 342 (74%) were considered usable.

Harvest

All 342 respondents indicated they set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2014-15 season. These trappers reported they also harvested raccoons (15,513), muskrat (7,410), beaver (2,578) and opossum (2,557) most frequently (Table 1). In order of frequency, otters were the sixth furbearer trapped in Illinois. Respondents trapped a total of 723 otters during the 2014-15 trapping season, a decrease of 25% from the harvest reported for the 2013-14 season. Over one-third of otter pelts were sold in Illinois (38%), whereas approximately 37% were sold or shipped out of state and 25% were not sold at all.

Male otters were trapped more frequently than female otters in every watershed but three: the Des Plaines, Kankakee, and Spoon watersheds (Table 2 and Figure 1). The Mississippi watershed presented the highest incidence of otter harvest throughout the state (144 otters); the Kaskaskia, Little Wabash and Big Muddy watersheds followed with 107, 82, and 58 otters, respectively. Sixteen of the 26 watersheds showed decreased harvest, 7 showed increased harvest, two showed no change, and the Chicago River watershed had no otters harvested in either year (Table 3 and Figure 2).

Respondents reported 380 otters were caught in targeted otter traps during the 2014-15 trapping season (Table 4). Another 66 otters were caught as secondary targets in targeted raccoon traps, and 213 otters in targeted beaver traps. Of the 183 respondents who set traps targeting otters primarily, 49.7% trapped one otter, 18.6% trapped 2 otters, and 31.7% trapped 3 or more (Table 5). Those who targeted raccoon ($n=53$) and beaver ($n=149$) primarily with otters as secondary targets trapped one (83.0% and 73.8%, respectively) and two (9.4%, 17.4%) otters most frequently (Tables 6-7).

Season Length and Otter Trapper Effort

The maximum days allowable for otter trapping during the 2014-15 season was 147 days. Active trappers set an average of 30 traps (Table 8) for an average of 42.5 days or nights (Table 9); 48.0% of respondents set traps for > 30 days, and 29.2% set traps for > 50 days. Participants who targeted otters ($n=282$)

spent an average of 25.6 days or nights trapping during the 2014-2015 season (Table 10). Surveyed trappers most frequently set traps in Pike county ($n=18$) followed by Fayette, Jackson, and Wayne counties ($n=12$, $n=11$, and $n=10$, respectively) during the 2014-2015 trapping season (Table 11).

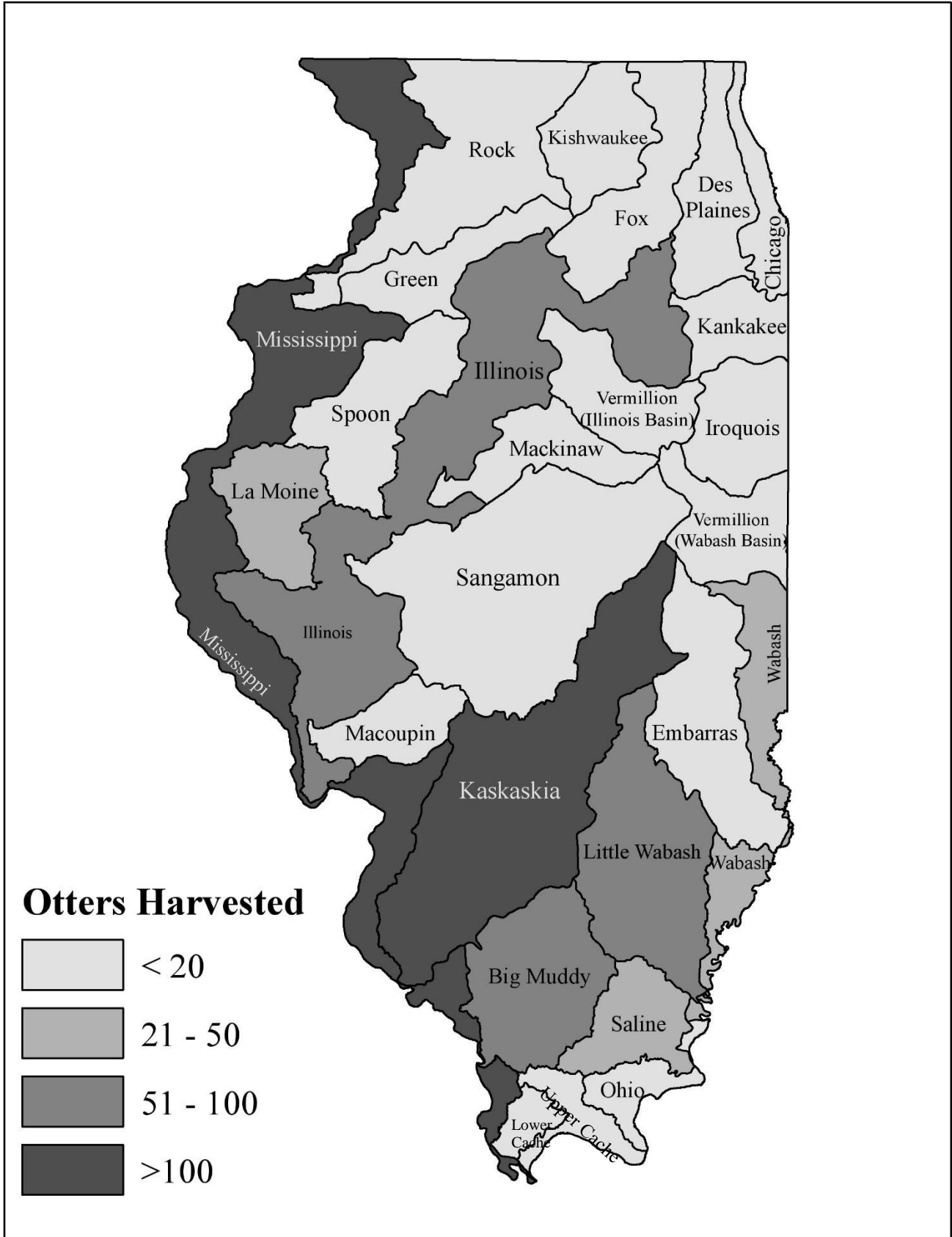


Figure 1. Distribution of otter harvest in 2014-15 by watershed.

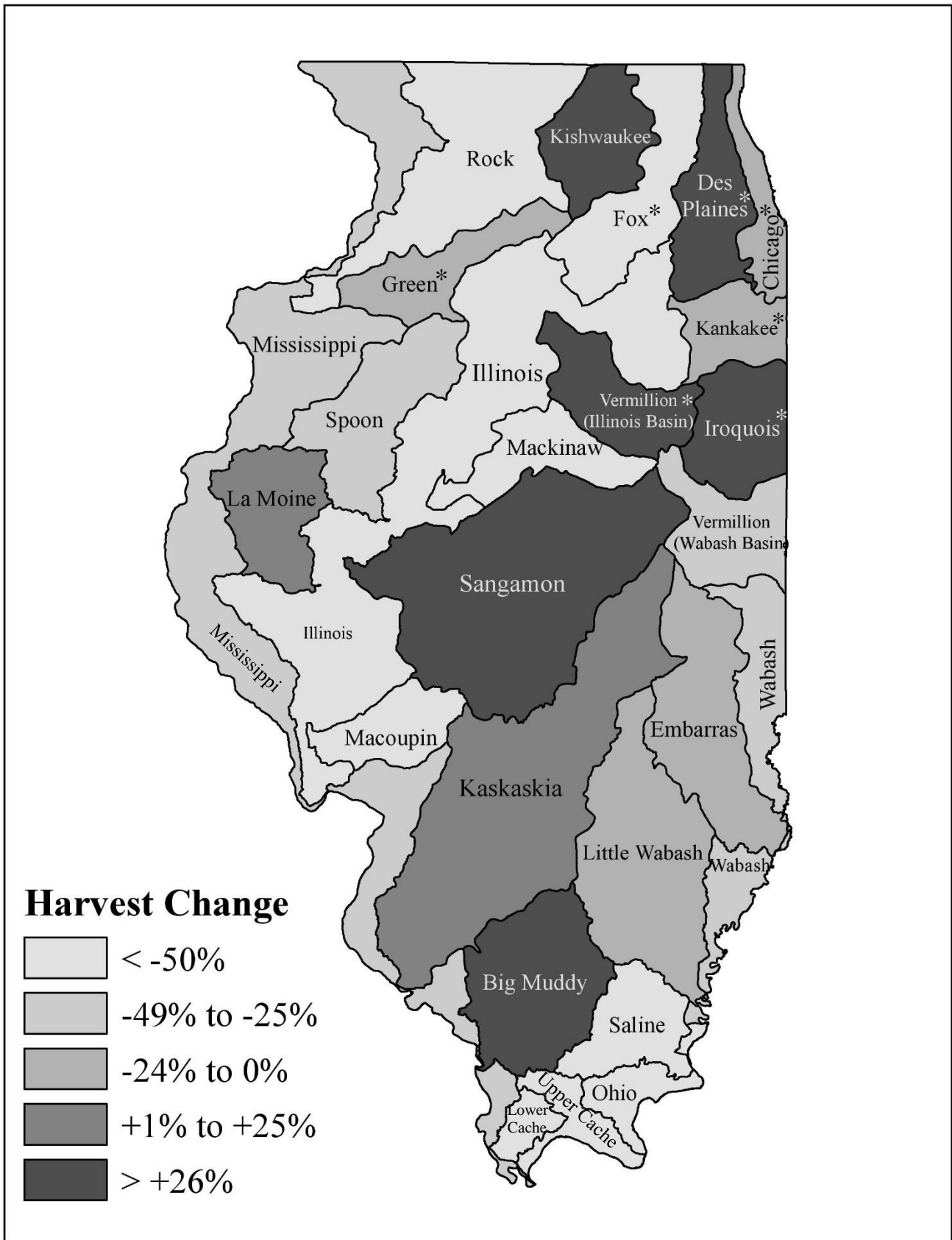


Figure 2. Percent change in otter harvest from 2013-14 to 2014-15 trapping seasons by watershed. *Indicates watersheds with fewer than 10 otters harvested during both seasons.

Satisfaction with Otter Trapping in Illinois

More than 49% of respondents (49.1%) indicated they were “Very Satisfied” or “Extremely Satisfied” with the length of time it took to receive their CITES tag (Figure 3). Another 27.4% indicated they were “Moderately Satisfied,” while 11.3% indicated they were “Not at all Satisfied.” Compared to the 2013-14 season, 62.4% of participants indicated they were “Equally Satisfied” with the 2014-2015 otter trapping season, while over 29% indicated they were “More Satisfied” (18.1%) or “Much More Satisfied” (11.5%) (Figure 4).

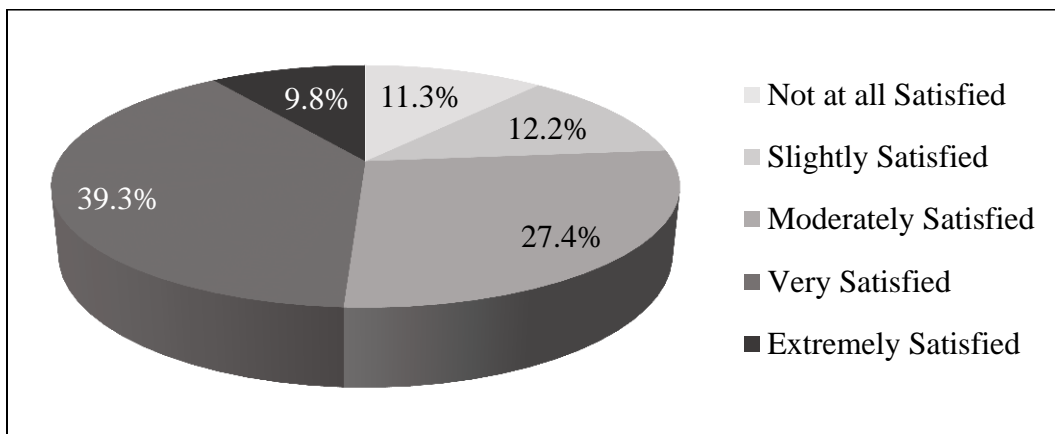


Figure 3. Respondent satisfaction with the length of time it took to receive their CITES tag ($n=328$).

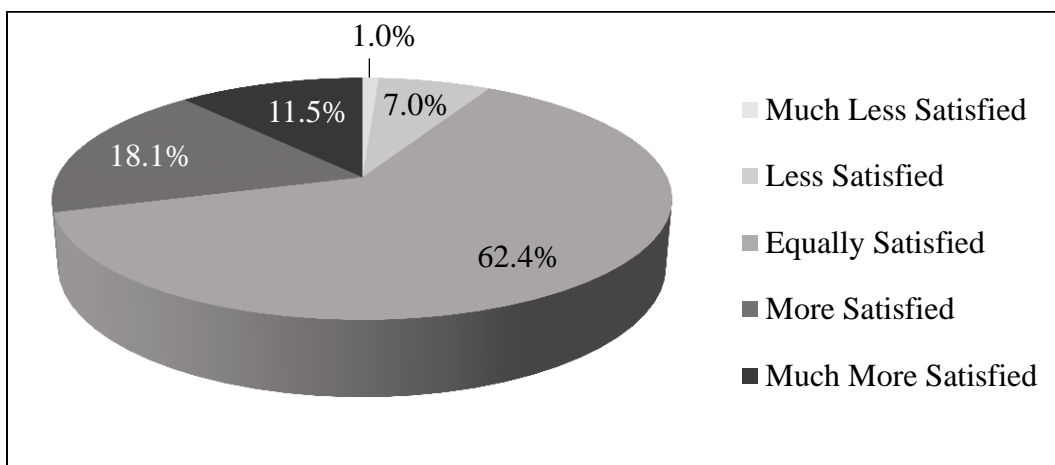


Figure 4. Participant satisfaction with the 2014-15 otter trapping season compared to the 2013-14 season ($n=314$).

Otter trappers were given a series of statements with which they indicated their satisfaction on a 5-point Likert-type scale, ranging from “Very Dissatisfied” to “Very Satisfied” (Table 12). Almost two-thirds of respondents (66.4%) indicated that they were “Satisfied” (46.8%) or “Very Satisfied” (19.6%) with the number of otters in the area they trapped; 26.7% indicated they were “Unsure.” When asked to rate the weather conditions during the season, nearly 56% indicated they were “Satisfied” (49.8%) or “Very Satisfied” (6.0%). A majority of respondents (57.0%) were “Satisfied” (48.5%) or “Very Satisfied” (8.5%) with the amount of time they spent otter trapping this season and over half (58.2%) indicated they were “Satisfied” (42.5%) or “Very Satisfied” (15.7%) with the number of otters they trapped. More than two-thirds (68.2%) were Dissatisfied (37.1%) or “Very Dissatisfied” (31.1%) with the otter fur prices during the season.

The primary target of the majority of Illinois trappers was raccoon (36.8%), beaver (18.7%) was selected second-most often by trappers, followed by muskrat (Figure 5). Sixty-three trappers indicated trapping raccoon and beaver only on public land, and sixty-one trappers trapped otters only on public land followed by 49 who trapped muskrat only on public land (Table 13).

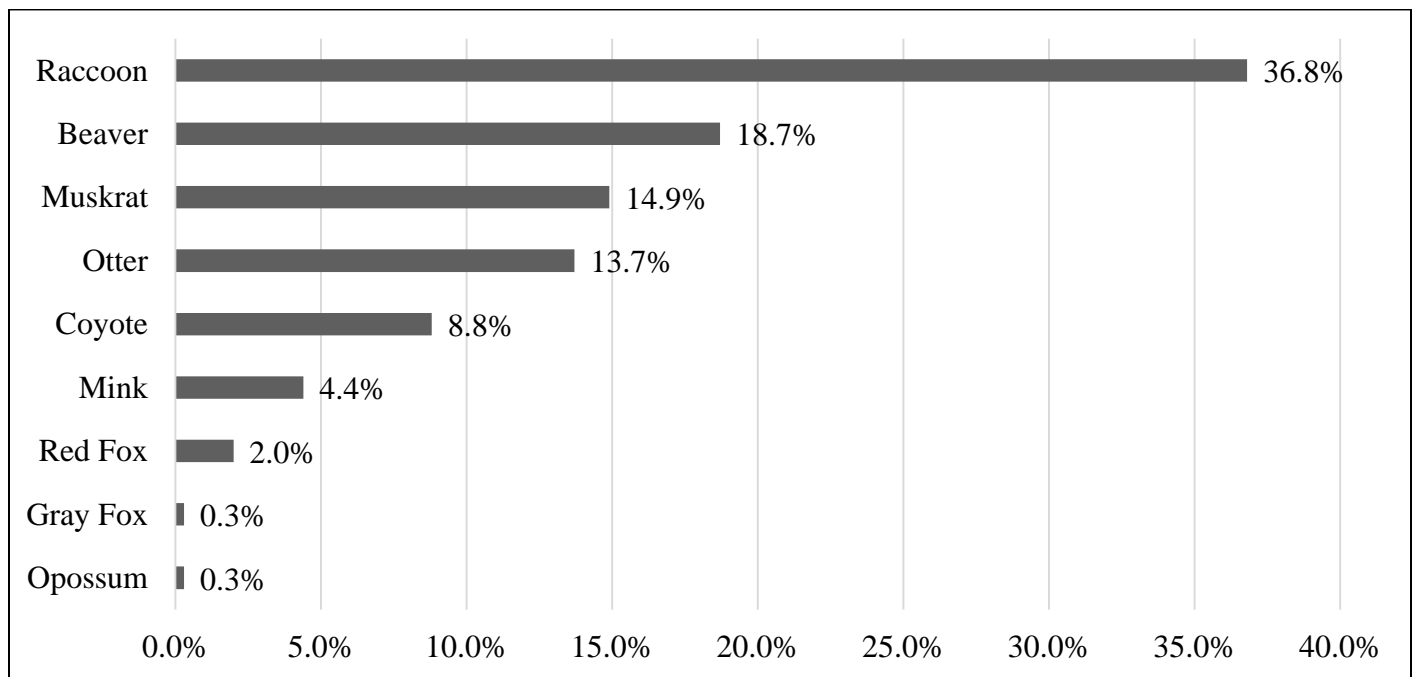


Figure 5. Trappers' primary target species ($n=342$).

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). The majority of hunters participated in selling their harvest in a single manner (Figure 6). Trappers were most likely to participate in selling their harvest skinned fresh or frozen (Figure 7). When restricting it to trappers that sold their catch as whole in carcass, an average of 62.9% of the harvest was sold in that manner. When limiting it to trappers that sold their catch as skinned fresh or frozen, an average of 85.6% of the harvest was sold that way. Similarly, of those that sold their harvest as skinned (fleshed, stretched, and dried), a mean of 75.8% of their harvest was sold in that manner.

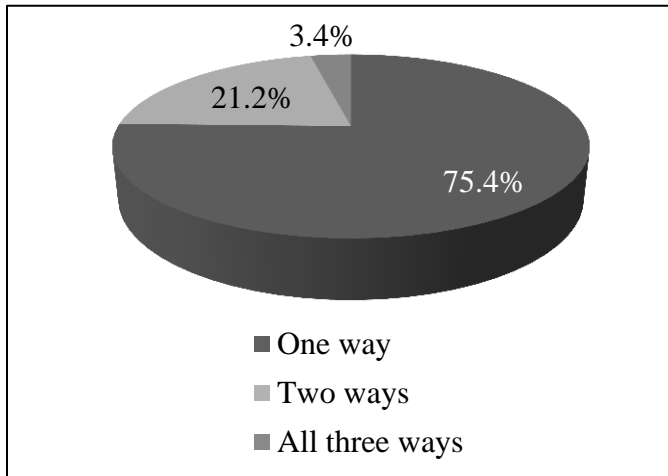


Figure 6. In how many conditions did trappers sell their catch.

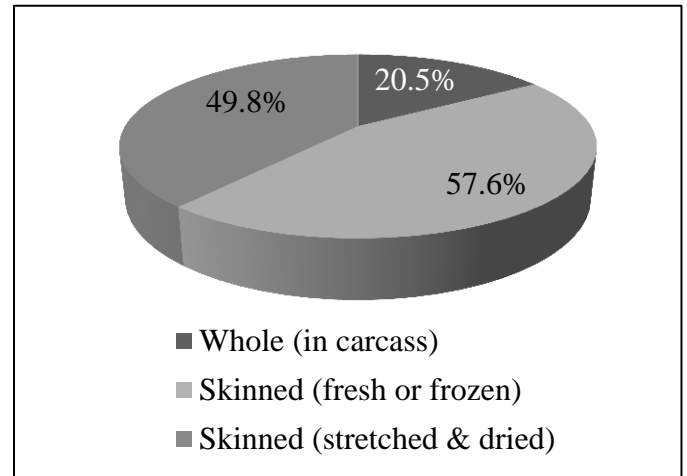


Figure 7. In what condition did trappers sell their catch. Percentages greater than 100% because 12.8% of trappers sold catch in multiple conditions.

Trappers were also 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 (86.3%) of trappers sold to one type of buyer, 12.7% sold to two types of buyers, and 1% sold to three. Slightly less than half of trappers (47.2%) sold to local buyers, 42.5% sold at international auctions, 19.4% sold to traveling buyers, and 5.7% sold at trappers' association sponsored auctions. If a trapper sold to a local buyer, they sold an average of 84.8% of their harvest to the local buyer. Sellers to traveling buyers sold 82.3%, sellers

to international auctions sold 92.3% at these auctions, and trappers' association sponsored sellers had an average of 84.7% sent to fur tappers' association auctions.

General Information

The majority of respondents were male (96.7%) (Figure 8). During the 2014-15 season, Illinois trappers averaged 47.7 years of age and had been trapping for an average of 22.5 years (Table 14). Slightly over half (50.1%) of respondents indicated that they trap every year (Table 15).

Of the respondents, 108 (31%) indicated that the 2014-15 trapping season was the first season they set traps for otter in Illinois, 146 (42.6%) had previously trapped in 2012-2013, and 204 (59.6%) had trapped in 2013-2014 (Table 16). Trapper distribution by county of residence can be found in Table 17.

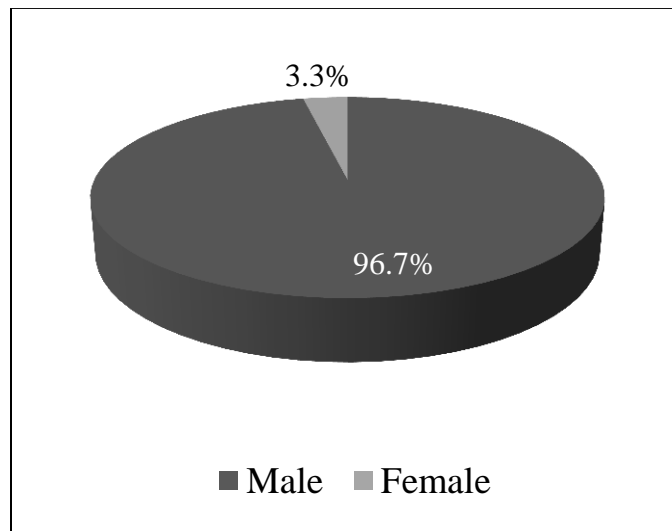


Figure 8. Gender distribution of otter trappers in Illinois ($n=460$).

Table 1. Participation and harvest by otter trappers during the 2014-2015 trapping season.

Species	Number Trapped	Number Sold in Illinois	Number Sold or Shipped Out of State	Number Not Sold
Raccoon	15513	5339	8900	1274
Muskrat	7410	3186	3973	251
Beaver	2578	1164	1044	370
Opossum	2557	351	665	1541
Coyote	1083	389	512	182
Otter	723	274	270	179
Striped Skunk	475	110	93	272
Mink	423	162	237	24
Red Fox	192	74	76	42
Gray Fox	13	3	4	6
Badger	13	2	4	7
Weasel	8	-	3	5

Table 2. Distribution of male and female otters trapped in each watershed.*

Watershed	Male Otters (n= 434)	Female Otters (n= 263)
Mississippi	86	58
Kaskaskia	63	44
Little Wabash	56	26
Big Muddy	38	20
Illinois	33	18
La Moine	19	11
Wabash	17	8
Saline	12	9
Embarras	12	8
Rock	12	7
Lower Cache	12	4
Vermilion (Wabash Basin)	11	4
Sangamon	9	9
Upper Cache	8	6
Ohio	8	3
Spoon	6	10
Mackinaw	6	5
Kishwaukee	6	5
Green	6	2
Iroquois	6	2
Vermilion (Illinois Basin)	4	1
Macoupin	2	1
Kankakee	-	1
Des Plaines	-	1
Fox	-	-
Chicago	-	-

*Information was not provided for 28 otters.

Table 3. Total otter harvest during 2014-15 and 2013-14 trapping seasons by watershed.

Watershed	2014-2015 Otter Harvest	2013-2014 Otter Harvest	Percent Change from previous year
Mississippi	144	186	-23
Kaskaskia	107	96	11
Little Wabash	82	86	-5
Big Muddy	58	34	71
Illinois	51	103	-50
La Moine	30	28	7
Wabash	25	34	-26
Saline	21	32	-34
Embarras	20	24	-17
Rock	19	63	-70
Sangamon	18	12	50
Lower Cache	16	32	-50
Spoon	16	23	-30
Vermilion (Wabash Basin)	15	20	-25
Upper Cache	14	45	-69
Ohio	11	20	-45
Mackinaw	11	22	-50
Kishwaukee*	11	6	83
Green*	8	9	-11
Iroquois*	8	2	300
Vermilion (Illinois Basin)*	5	1	400
Macoupin	3	14	-79
Kankakee*	1	1	0
Des Plaines*	1	0	-
Fox*	0	4	-100
Chicago*	0	0	-
Unknown	28	63	-56
TOTAL	723	960	-25

*Indicates watersheds with fewer than 10 otters harvested during both seasons.

Table 4. Number of otters captured in Illinois for the 2014-15 trapping season by trap target.

Trap Target	# of Otters
Targeted otter trap ($n=183$)	380
Targeted raccoon trap with otters as secondary ($n=53$)	66
Targeted beaver trap with otters as secondary ($n=149$)	213

Table 5. Number of otters trapped in a targeted otter trap ($n=183$).

# of Otters	% Trappers
1	49.7
2	18.6
3	13.1
4	11.5
5	7.1

Table 6. Number of otters trapped in a targeted raccoon trap with otters as a secondary target ($n=53$).

# of Otters	% Trappers
1	83.0
2	9.4
3	7.5
4	-
5	-

Table 7. Number of otters trapped in a targeted beaver trap with otters as a secondary target ($n=149$).

# of Otters	% Trappers
1	73.8
2	17.4
3	4.0
4	1.3
5	3.4

Table 8. Average number of traps set on traplines during the 2014-2015 trapping season ($n=342$).

Range-Traps Set	% Trappers
1-10	23.1
11-20	26.6
21-30	22.8
31-40	7.6
41-50	7.0
51-100	10.0
>100	2.9

Average traps set = 30.0

Table 9. Number of days or nights trappers set traps during the 2014-2015 trapping season ($n=342$).

Total Days/Nights	% Trappers
1-10	13.2
11-20	16.6
21-30	22.2
31-40	9.1
41-50	9.7
51-75	15.7
76-100	6.2
>100	7.3
Average days/nights = 42.5	

Table 10. Number of days/nights participants set **otter** traps during the 2014-2015 season ($n=282$).

Total Days/Nights	% Trappers
0-10	32.6
11-20	27.0
21-30	17.7
31-40	3.9
41-50	7.5
51-75	6.7
76-100	2.1
>100	2.5
Average days/nights = 25.6	

Table 11. Distribution of active trappers by county in Illinois by county trapped most often ($n=342$).

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

Table 12. Participant satisfaction with the 2014-2015 Otter Trapping Season in Illinois.

	Very Dissatisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Unsure %	Satisfied %	Very Satisfied %
Number of otters in the area you trapped ($n=321$).	2.8	4.1	26.7	46.8	19.6
Weather conditions during the season ($n=317$).	5.4	23.0	15.8	49.8	6.0
Amount of time you spent otter trapping this season ($n=316$).	3.8	14.9	24.3	48.5	8.5
Number of otters you trapped ($n=318$).	12.9	14.8	14.1	42.5	15.7
Otter fur prices during the season	37.1	31.1	19.5	11.4	0.9

Table 13. Number of trappers who trapped only on public land ($n=342$).

Species	Number of Trappers
Raccoon	63
Beaver	63
Otter	61
Muskrat	49
Opossum	29
Mink	22
Skunk	13
Coyote	12
Red Fox	10
Gray Fox	0
Weasel	0
Other – Badger	1

Table 14. Number of years spent trapping in Illinois based on participant response to the 2014-2015 Illinois Otter Trapper Survey ($n=337$).

Years	% Trappers
0-10	44.5
11-20	11.0
21-30	9.2
31-40	14.2
41-50	11.6
>50	9.5
Average = 22.53 years	

Table 15. Participant frequency of trapping furbearers in Illinois ($n=335$).

	Every year	Most years	Occasional years	Rarely	Never
%	50.1	27.5	18.8	3.6	---

Table 16. Number of trappers who set traps for otters during previous seasons.

Season	# of Trappers
2012-2013	146
2013-2014	204
None, first year trapping	108

Table 17. Distribution of trappers by county of residence based on responses to the 2014-2015 Illinois Otter Trapper Survey ($n=342$).

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

Appendix A

Illinois Otter Trapper Survey: 2014-15 Season



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



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 trapping 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 **Section 4**)

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?
 _____ County

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

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

6. How many years have you been trapping in Illinois? _____ years

7. Which of the following best describes how often you trap furbearers in Illinois?
 _____ Never _____ Rarely _____ Occasional years _____ Most years _____ Every year

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

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muskrat | <input type="checkbox"/> Mink | <input type="checkbox"/> Otter | <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opossum | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Fox | <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Fox | <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skunk | <input type="checkbox"/> Weasel | <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please identify) _____ |

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. Otter Trapping. Please answer the following questions about your otter trapping activities during the 2014-15 season. The information you provide will help us to better manage otter populations in Illinois.

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

_____ days/nights

2. Please rate your satisfaction with the 2014-15 otter trapping season as compared to the 2013-14 season.

Much Less Satisfied	Less Satisfied	Equally Satisfied	More Satisfied	Much More Satisfied
1	2	3	4	5

3. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the 2014-15 Otter Trapping season in Illinois** for each of the following by circling the number that matches your response.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Unsure	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Number of otters in the areas you trapped.	1	2	3	4	5
Weather conditions during the season.	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of time you spent otter trapping this season.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of otters you trapped.	1	2	3	4	5
Otter fur prices during the season	1	2	3	4	5

4. Please provide the number of otters trapped in each of the types of sets listed below.

- _____ targeted otter
- _____ targeted raccoon, with otter as a secondary target
- _____ targeted beaver, with otter as a secondary target

5. It is important for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to understand the distribution of the otter harvest in the state. Please refer to the **map on the back of the cover letter** and write in the table below the number of the watershed where you trapped otters as well as the number of otters trapped per watershed.

Watershed Number	Otters Trapped	
	Males	Females

6. Please give your satisfaction with the length of time it took to receive your CITES tag by circling the number below that matches your response.

Not at all Satisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied
1	2	3	4	5

7. In what other seasons did you set traps for otters? (Please check **all that apply**).

2012-13 2013-14 None, this is my first year trapping otters.

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

1. What is your county of residence? _____ County

2. Please give your age. _____ years

3. Please give your gender Male Female

Comments



Federal Aid Project
funded by your purchase of
hunting equipment

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 7, 2015

Dear Illinois Trapper,

Your name was selected from the list of 2014 Illinois otter permit applicants. 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,

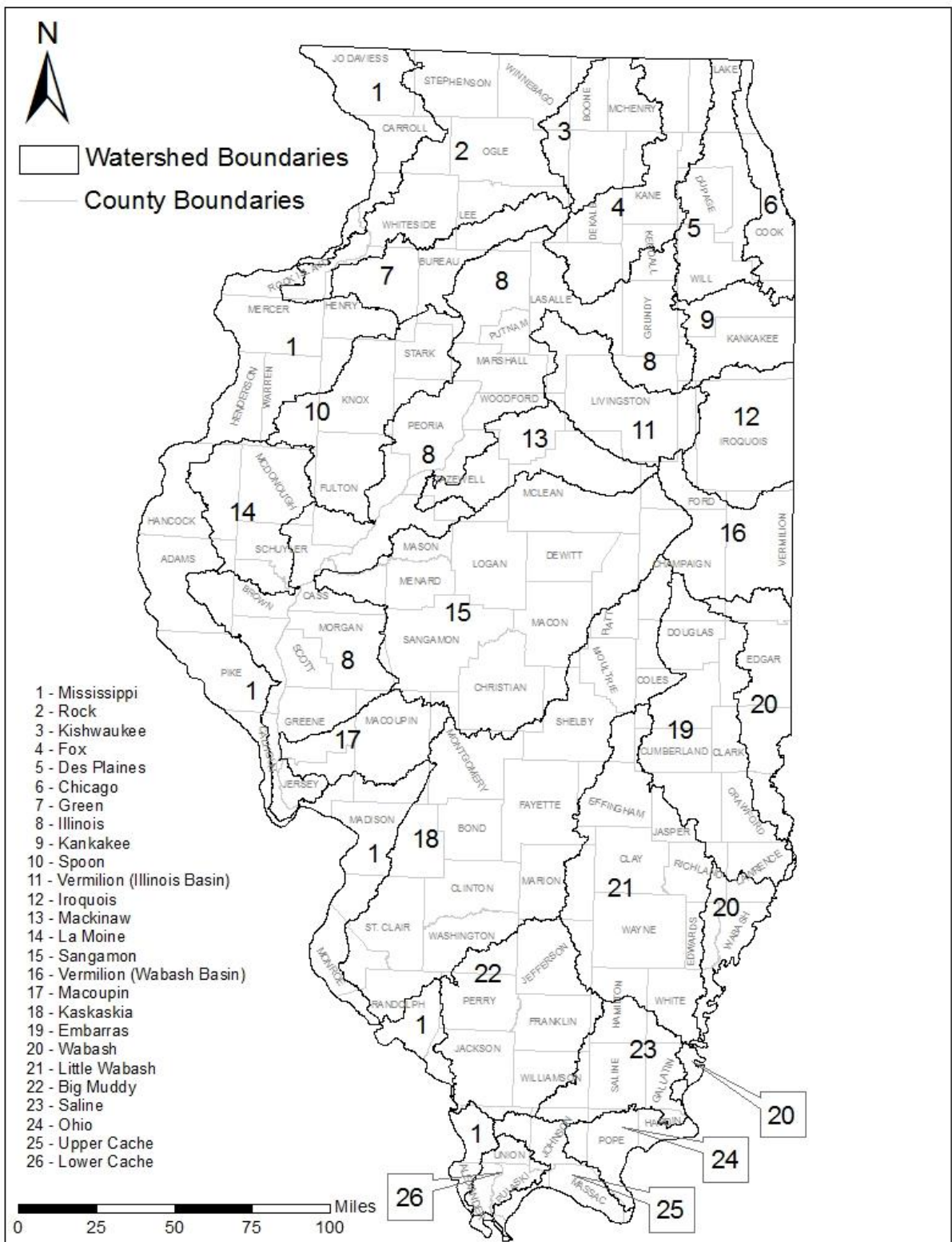
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Miller".

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Please refer to the graphics on this page to answer question 5 in Section 3.



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

April 29, 2015

Dear Illinois Trapper,

Your name was selected from the list of 2014 Illinois otter permit applicants. You were recently sent a survey questionnaire requesting information about your trapping activities during the 2014-2015 trapping seasons. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you.

If you have not returned your completed questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible.

We have enclosed another copy for your use. 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.

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. A postage paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

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,

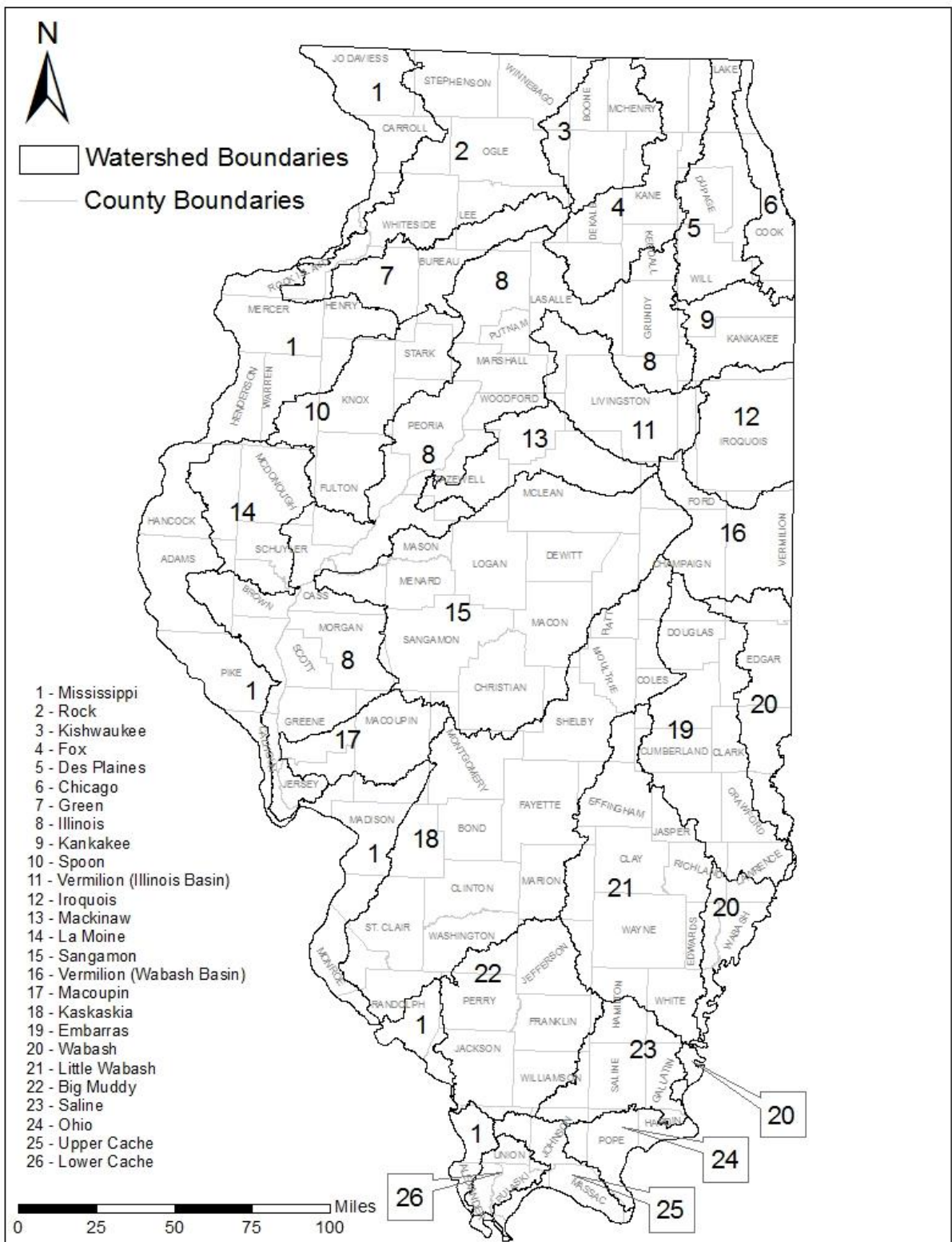
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Miller".

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Please refer to the graphics on this page to answer question 5 in Section 3.



Appendix E

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

	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
Furbearers—Hunting	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	

	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	LIMIT	SPECIAL REGULATIONS
Furbearers—Trapping	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)		5 per person per season (statewide)
	River Otter	Nov. 5, 2014 - March 31, 2015 (North) Nov. 10, 2014 - March 31, 2015 (South)		
	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.