

HumanDimensions
Research Program

Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign



Federal Aid Project
Number W-112-R-28
Job Number 101.2
Wildlife Restoration
Oct. 1, 2018-Sept. 30, 2019

Colleen Callahan, Director
Illinois Department of Natural
Resources

Paul Vehlow,
Federal Aid Coordinator

Mike Wefer,
Chief, Division of Wildlife
Resources

2018-2019 Illinois Trapper Report: Harvest, Effort, and Marketing Practices



Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.
Program Leader and Principal Investigator
Human Dimensions Research Program
Illinois Natural History Survey

Prepared by
Brent D. Williams, Linda K. Campbell, Craig
A. Miller, Ph.D., and Lauren J. Stephens



INHS Technical Report 2019 (37)
November 23, 2019

Key words: Trappers, harvest, effort, and marketing practices.

Suggested Citation:

Williams, B.D., L.K. Campbell, C.A. Miller, and L.J. Stephens. 2019. 2018-2019 Illinois Trapper Report: Harvest, Effort, and Marketing Practices. Job Completion Report, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration W-112-R-28. Human Dimensions Research Program Report HR-19-02/INHS Technical Report 2019 (37). Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL. 56pp.

2018-19 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-28
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.2

Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.
Program Leader and Principal Investigator
Human Dimensions Research Program
Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois

Prepared by
Brent D. Williams, Linda K. Campbell, Craig A. Miller, Ph.D., and Lauren J. Stephens
Illinois Natural History Survey
Champaign, IL
November 23, 2019

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-28
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Colleen Callahan, Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Mike Wefer, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion, or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1..... License purchasers that set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2018-19 trapping season.....	2
Figure 2..... Distribution of active trappers by zones in Illinois.....	2
Figure 3..... Comparison of trapping activity in 2017-18 to 2018-19 estimates.....	3
Figure 4..... Distribution of days of trapping by active trappers during 2018-19 trapping season	3
Figure 5..... South Zone trappers' opinion of the 2018-19 opening date	4
Figure 6..... North Zone trappers' opinion of the 2018-19 opening date.....	4
Figure 7..... South Zone trappers' opinion of the 2018-19 closing date.....	5
Figure 8..... North Zone trappers' opinion of the 2018-19 closing date.....	5
Figure 9..... Distribution of the number of muskrats trapped per successful muskrat trapper in Illinois	6
Figure 10..... Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per successful raccoon trapper in Illinois	6
Figure 11..... Percent change in number of successful trappers and harvest by species from 2017-18 to 2018-19 season	7
Figure 12..... 2008-2018 change in Muskrat harvest.....	8
Figure 13..... 2008-2018 change in Mink harvest.....	8
Figure 14..... 2008-2018 change in Raccoon harvest	9
Figure 15..... 2008-2018 change in Opossum harvest.....	9
Figure 16..... 2008-2018 change in Red Fox harvest	10
Figure 17..... 2008-2018 change in Gray Fox harvest	10
Figure 18..... 2008-2018 change in Beaver harvest	11
Figure 19..... 2008-2018 change in Striped Skunk harvest	11
Figure 20..... 2008-2018 change in Weasel harvest	12
Figure 21..... 2008-2018 change in Coyote harvest	12
Figure 22..... 2008-2018 change in Badger harvest	13
Figure 23..... 2008-2018 change in All Species harvest	13
Figure 24..... Trappers that hunted furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2018-19 season	14
Figure 25..... Trappers that sighted badgers.....	14
Figure 26..... Trappers that sighted signs of badgers	14
Figure 27..... Motivations for participating in trapping	16
Figure 28..... Respondents number one reason for trapping	16
Figure 29..... Percent of trappers satisfied with bobcat permit system	17
Figure 30..... Percent of trappers who applied for a bobcat permit	17
Figure 31..... Percent of trappers who support changing the bobcat permit system.....	17
Figure 32..... Percent of trappers who would support preventing receiving a bobcat permit 2 years in a row	17
Figure 33..... Percent of trappers who agree with allowing the use of cable restraints on private land	18
Figure 34..... Percent of trappers who are concerned cable restraints pose a threat to non-target and domestic animals	18
Figure 35..... Percent of trappers who are concerned that hunters would disapprove of cable restraints use.....	19
Figure 36..... Percent of trappers who are concerned that non-hunting/non-trapping persons would disapprove of cable restraint use	19
Figure 37..... Gender of respondents	19
Figure 38..... Age of trappers when they started trapping	19
Figure 39..... Percentage of respondents who have mentored a new trapper	20
Figure 40..... Percentage of respondents who know someone interested in trapping.....	20
Figure 41..... Respondents description of who introduced them to trapping.....	20
Figure 42..... Description of type of land respondents set traps on most often	21
Table 1..... Participation and harvest by fur trappers in Illinois, 2018-19 season.....	23
Table 2..... Distribution of reported furbearer harvest among successful trappers in Illinois.....	24
Table 3..... Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of resident trappers in Illinois	24
Table 4..... Muskrat WMU ^a	25
Table 5..... Mink WMU	25
Table 6..... Otter WMU.....	26
Table 7..... Raccoon WMU.....	26
Table 8..... Opossum WMU	27
Table 9..... Red Fox WMU	27
Table 10..... Gray Fox WMU	28
Table 11..... Beaver WMU	28
Table 12..... Striped Skunk WMU.....	29
Table 13..... Weasel WMU	29
Table 14..... Coyote WMU	30
Table 15..... Badger WMU	30
Table 16..... Bobcat WMU	31
Table 17..... Muskrat FMZ ^b	31
Table 18..... Mink FMZ.....	31
Table 19..... Otter FMZ.....	32
Table 20..... Raccoon FMZ.....	32

Table 21	Opossum FMZ	32
Table 22	Red Fox FMZ.....	33
Table 23	Gray Fox FMZ.....	33
Table 24	Beaver FMZ.....	33
Table 25	Striped Skunk FMZ.....	34
Table 26	Weasel FMZ.....	34
Table 27	Coyote FMZ.....	34
Table 28	Badger FMZ.....	35
Table 29	Bobcat FMZ.....	35
Table 30	Number of pelts sold by successful trappers, 2018-19 season.....	36
Table 31	Estimated statewide harvest by resident Illinois trappers.....	37
Table 32	Summary of fur hunting activities reported by trappers in Illinois.....	38
Table 33	Number of trappers who saw badgers or signs of badgers by the county in Illinois.....	39
Table 34	Importance of reasons for trapping.....	40
Table 35	Types of traps owned and used by active Illinois trappers.....	41
Table 36	Distribution of active hunters by county trapped most in Illinois.....	42
Table 37	Distribution of respondents by county of residence.....	43

^a WMU = Wildlife Management Unit

^b FMZ = Furbearer Management Zones

LIST OF APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>	
Appendix A.....	Illinois Trapper Survey: 2018-19 Season.....	44
Appendix B.....	Cover letter sent with first mailing of the 2018-19 Trapper Survey.....	52
Appendix C.....	Thank you/reminder postcard sent as follow-up to the mailings.....	53
Appendix D.....	Cover letter sent with second mailing of the 2018-19 Trapper Survey.....	54
Appendix E.....	2018-19 Season dates and limits information.....	55
Appendix F.....	Wildlife management units and furbearer management zones in Illinois.....	56

^a WMU = Wildlife Management Unit

^b FMZ = Furbearer Management Zones

ABSTRACT

We sampled 1,200 of 2018 resident Illinois trapping license purchasers from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources licensing database. Licensees were mailed an 8-page questionnaire, and we received 739 (63%) questionnaires. Trapping license sales increased 7.6% from 2017-18 (5,964 licenses) to 2018-19 (6,416). Trappers set an average of 15.8 traps for an average of 26.4 days or nights during the 2018-19 season and harvested an estimated 127,990 furbearers (down 4.8% from the 134,560 harvested in 2017-18). An estimated 63,179 raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) were trapped during the 2018-19 Illinois trapping season, a decrease of 1.3% from the estimated 64,025 trapped during the 2017-18 season. Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) harvest was the next highest at 17,815 opossum (6.3% increase from the previous year).

OBJECTIVE

To survey furbearer (13 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 (2018-19) was selected from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) license sales database. Each trapper was mailed an 8-page questionnaire (Appendix A), cover letter (Appendix B), and a postage-paid return envelope on 11 June 2019. The initial sample of 1,200 license purchasers was reduced to 1,173 due to undeliverable addresses. Non-respondents were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) on 26 June 2019. Remaining non-respondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 15 July 2019. Trappers who did not respond to the previous mailings were mailed a second thank you/reminder postcard on 30 July 2019. A third final questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) were sent on 27 August 2019. Season date information can be found in Appendix E.

RESULTS

A total of 739 license purchasers responded with usable questionnaires, resulting in a 63% 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 739 license purchasers in our sample, 430 (58.2%) set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2018-19 season (Figure 1). Trappers set traps most often in the north zone (Figure 2). Active trappers set an average of 15.0 traps for an average of 25.9 days or nights (Figure 3). Maximum number of days a trapper could have trapped was 142 (Appendix E); 25.9% set traps for > 30 days and 15.3% of trappers set traps for > 45 days (Figure 4).

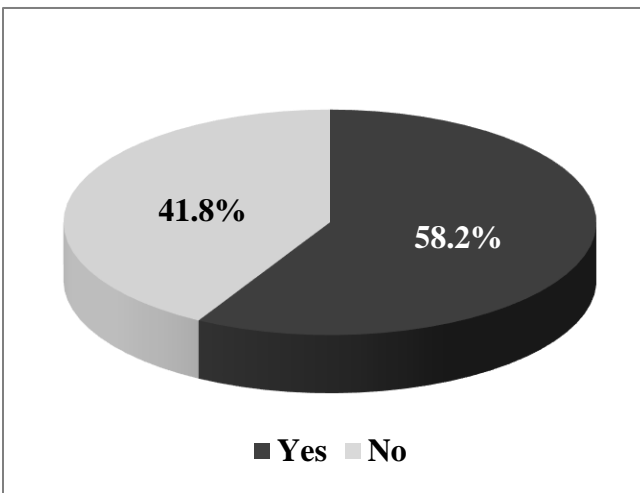


Figure 1. License purchasers that set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2018-19 trapping season ($n = 739$).

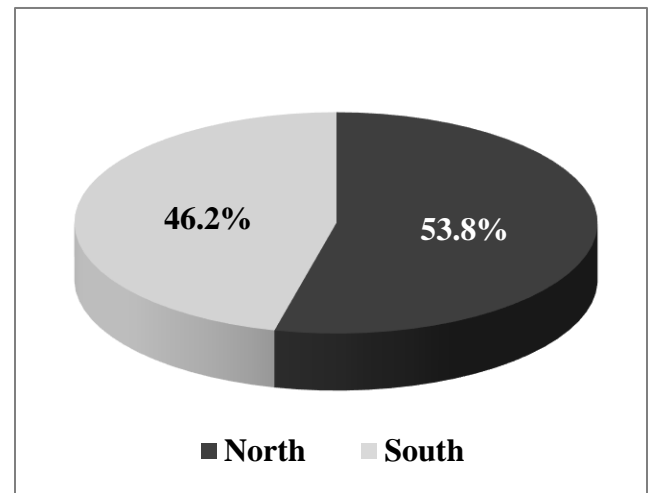


Figure 2. Distribution of active trappers by zones in Illinois ($n = 429$).

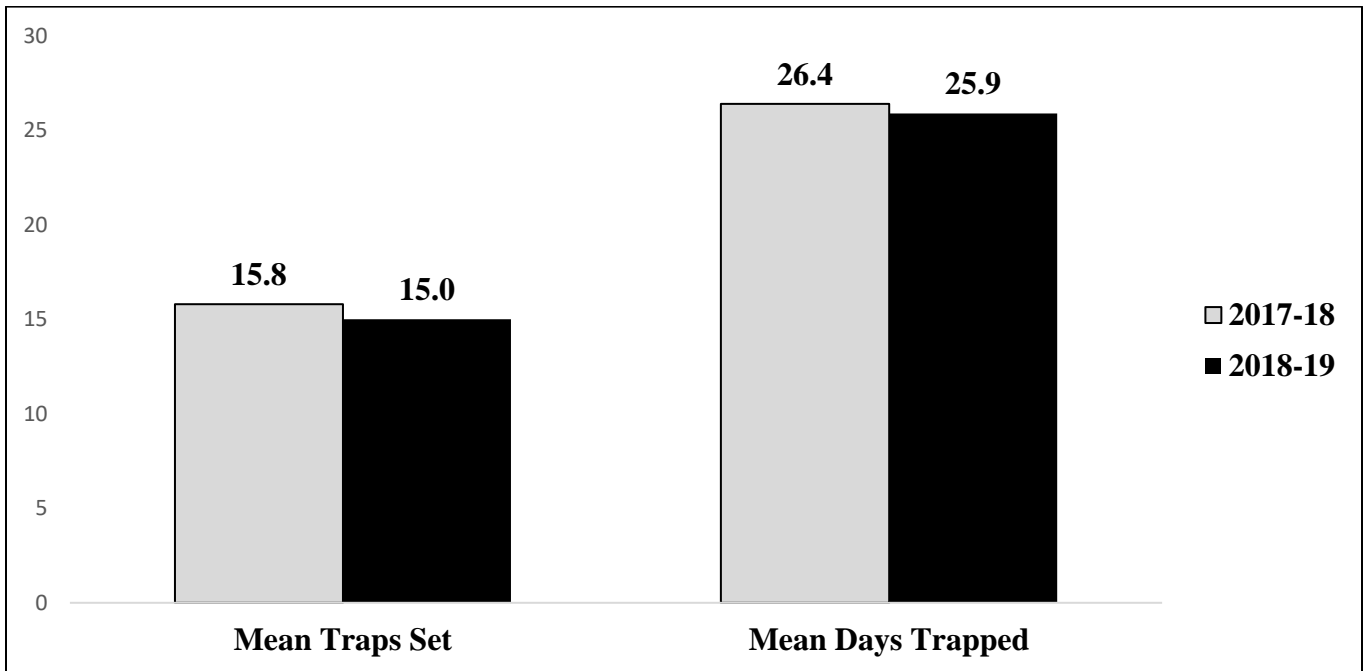


Figure 3. Comparison of trapping activity reported in 2017-18 and 2018-19 Illinois Trapper Survey.

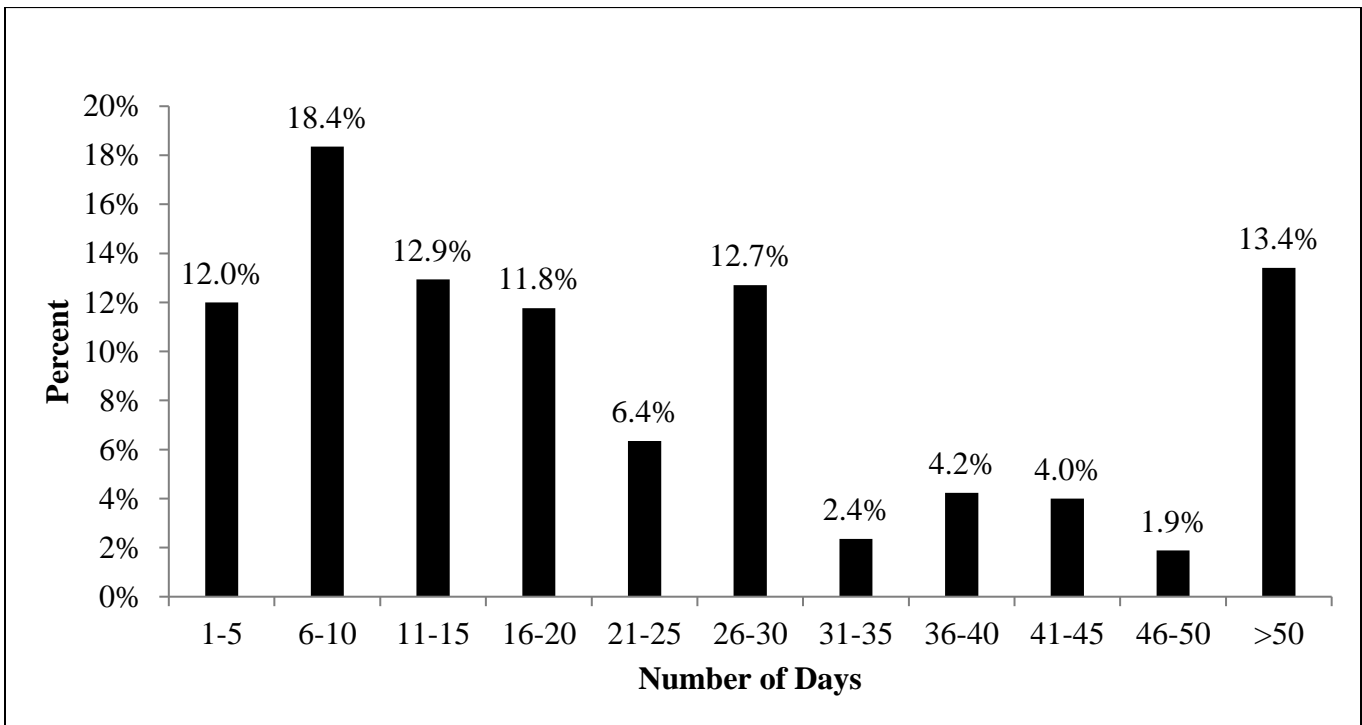


Figure 4. Distribution of days of trapping by active trappers in Illinois, 2018-19 season ($n = 425$).

Participation during the 2018-19 season was highest among raccoon trappers, estimated at 2,778 successful trappers statewide (Table 3), an increase of 2.6% from the 2017-18 trapping season. Opossum trapping was

second with 1,537 successful trappers, followed by equal numbers of coyote (*Canis latrans*; 1,406 successful trappers) and beaver (*Castor canadensis*; 1,406 successful trappers), then muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*; 1,285 successful trappers), striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*; 894 successful trappers), and otter (*Lontra canadensis*; 634 successful trappers). Mink (*Neovison vison*; 556 successful trappers), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*; 478 successful trappers), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*; 304 successful trappers), badger (*Taxidea taxus*; 122 successful trappers), weasel (*Mustela frenata* and *nivalis*; 35 successful trappers), and gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*; 17 successful trappers) were the least often trapped species.

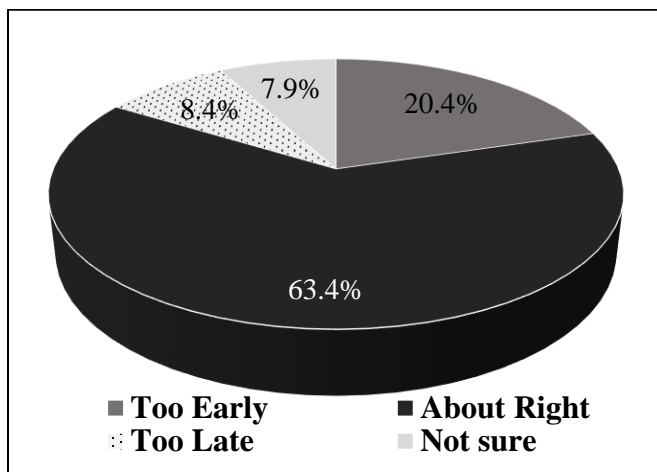


Figure 5. South Zone trappers' opinion of the 2018-19 opening date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1-day trapping in 2018-19 ($n = 191$).

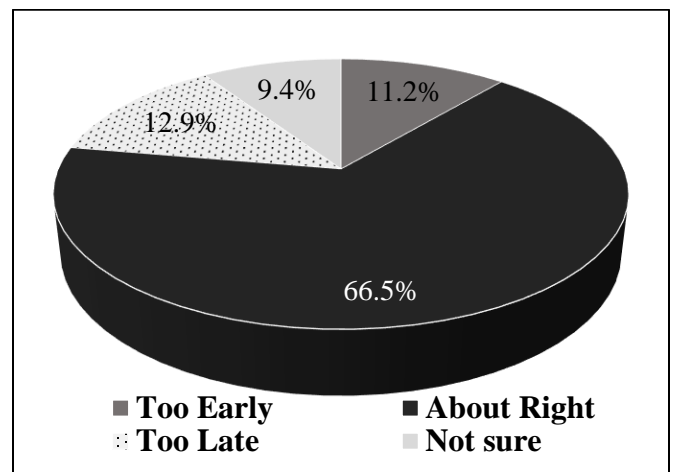


Figure 6. North Zone trappers' opinion of the 2018-19 opening date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1-day trapping in 2018-19 ($n = 223$).

Trappers that spent at least one day trapping were asked to give their opinion of the timing of opening and closing dates in the zone they hunted most often. Sixty-three percent of trappers in the southern zone said that the opening date was about right (Figure 5), as compared to 66.5% in the northern zone (Figure 6). Most southern zone trappers felt the closing dates were about right, and 23.8% indicated it was too early (Figure 7). Most northern zone trappers (67.4%) felt the closing dates were about right (Figure 8).

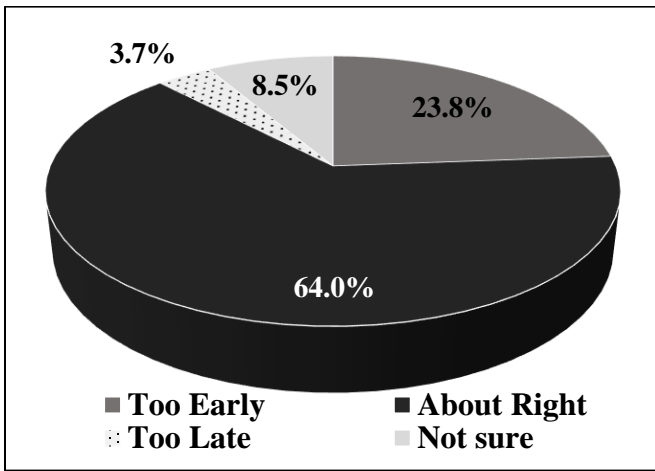


Figure 7. South Zone trappers' opinion of the 2018-19 closing date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1-day trapping in 2018-19 ($n = 189$).

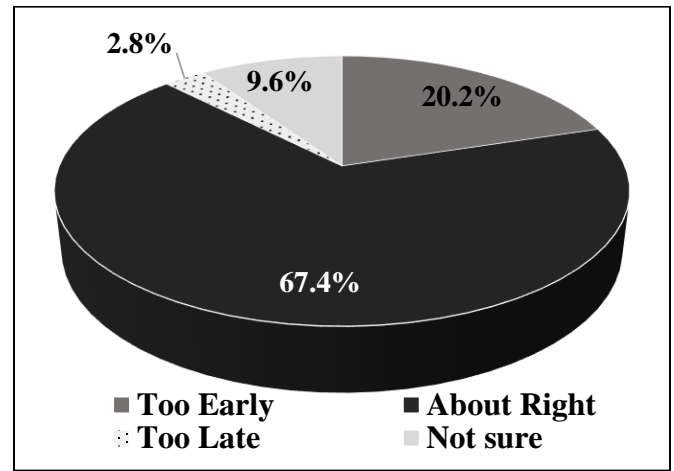


Figure 8. North Zone trappers' opinion of the 2018-19 closing date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1-day trapping in 2018-19 ($n = 218$).

Harvest

An estimated 63,179 raccoons were trapped by trappers during the 2018-19 Illinois trapping season (Table 3), which was a decrease of 1.3% from the estimated 64,025 trapped during the 2017-18 season. Opossum harvest at 17,815 opossums trapped (6.3% increase from previous year) was next highest followed by muskrat (16,079; 14.5% decrease from previous year), coyote (11,781; 28.7% decrease from previous year), beaver (10,358; 7.3% decrease from previous year), striped skunk (4,141; 63.1% increase from previous year), and mink 1,502; 23.7% decrease from previous year). The number of muskrats harvested averaged 12.51 per trapper and ranged from 1-146 (Figure 9), and the number of raccoons harvested averaged 22.74 per trapper and ranged from 1-210 (Figure 10). Confidence intervals (95%) for trapper participation and harvest of each species are presented in Table 3.

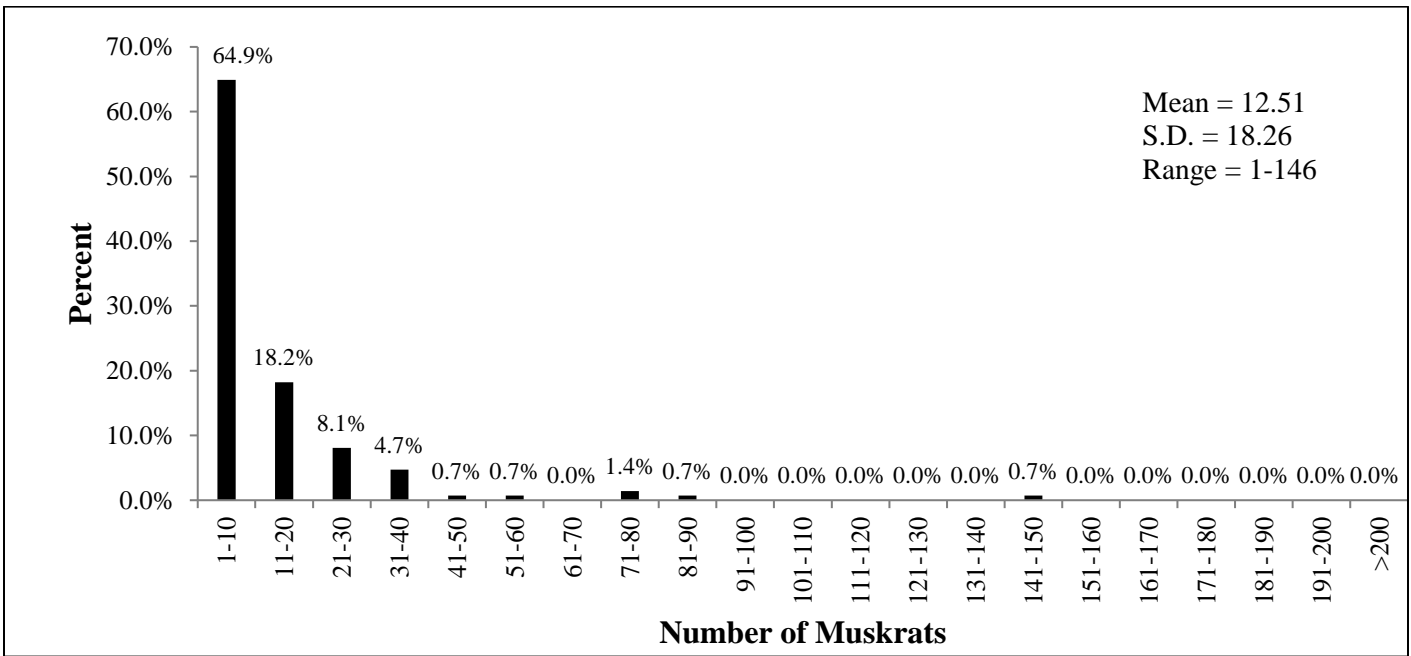


Figure 9. Distribution of the number of muskrats trapped per successful muskrat trapper in Illinois, 2018-19 season ($n = 148$).

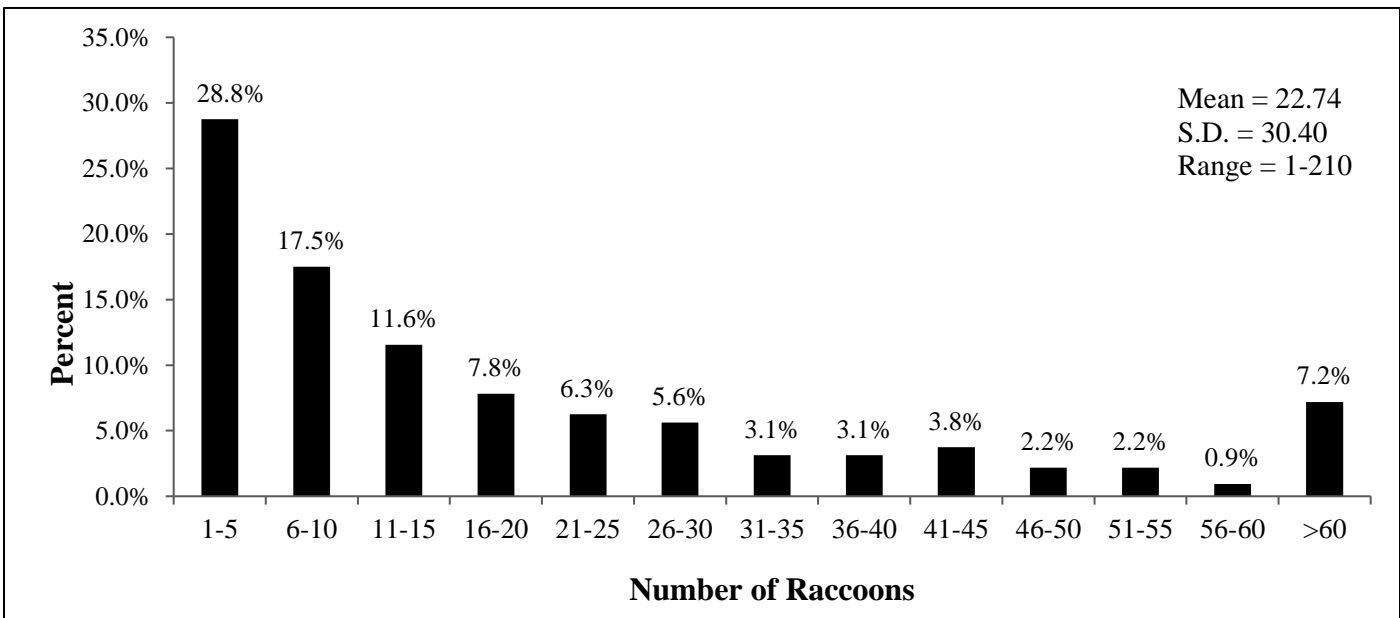


Figure 10. Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per successful raccoon trapper in Illinois, 2018-19 season ($n = 320$).

Harvest and trapping effort for each species are reported by wildlife management units and furbearer management zones in Tables 4-29. The estimated number of pelts sold in 2018-19 is presented by species in Table 30. The trends in statewide harvests of furbearers for the previous 10 years are listed in Table 31.

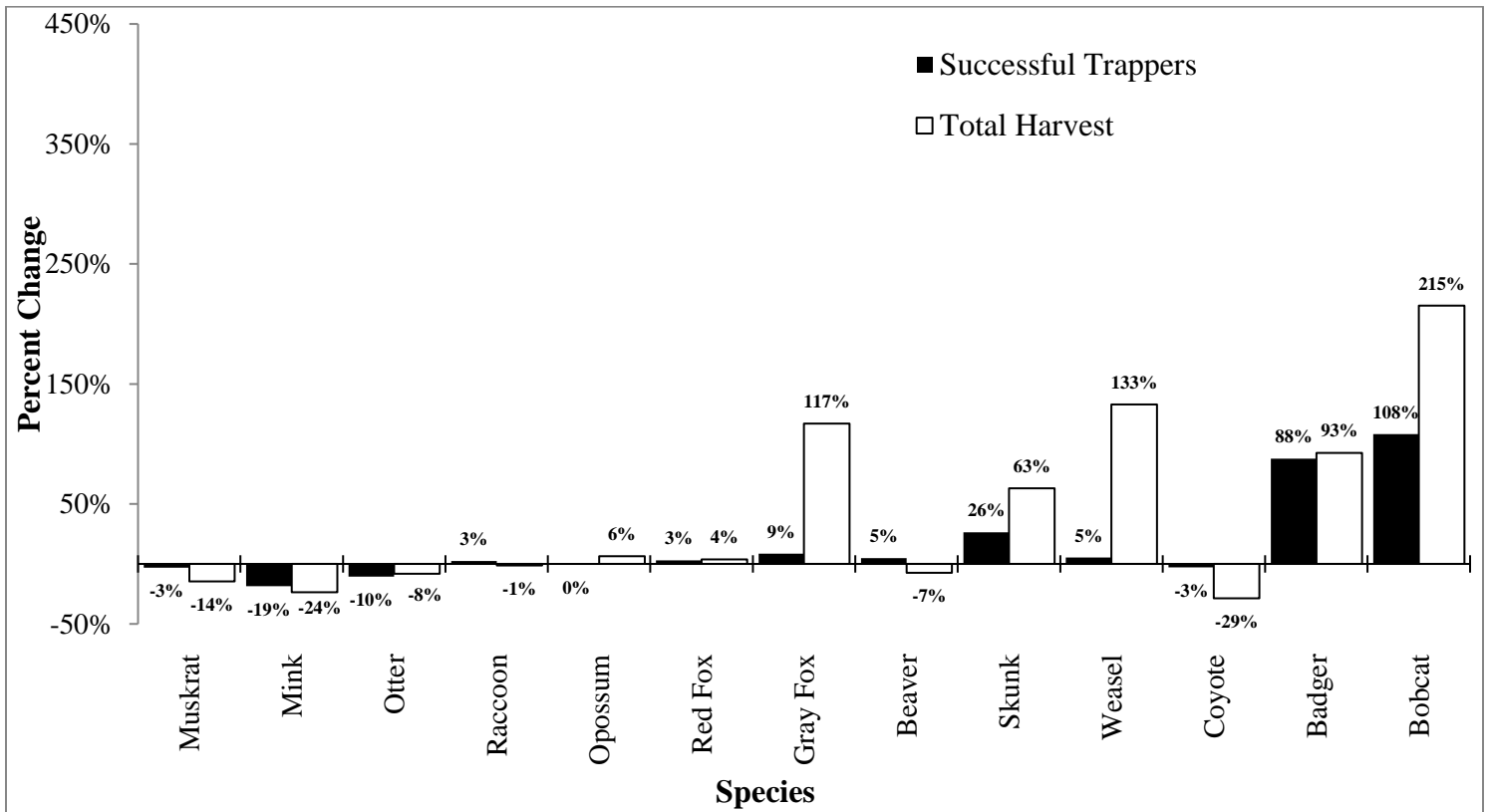


Figure 11. Percent change in number of successful trappers and harvest by species between 2017-18 and 2018-19 license years.

Changes in Trapper Participation and Harvest

The number of Illinois residents participating in trapping increased 7.6% in 2018-19 to (6,416 licenses) from 2017-18 (5,964 licenses). Average season harvest per trapper increased for otter, opossum, red fox, gray fox, skunk, weasel, badger, and bobcat. Estimated total harvest increased for opossum, red fox, gray fox, striped skunk, weasel, badger and bobcat. The largest increases in total harvest were for bobcat (215%) followed by weasel (133%), gray fox (117%), and badger (93%) (Figure 11). Changes in trapper harvest over the past ten years (2008-2018) for each species type and all species are shown in Figures 12-23. Ten-year trends for otter and bobcat harvest data have not yet been established and are not included in the listed figures.

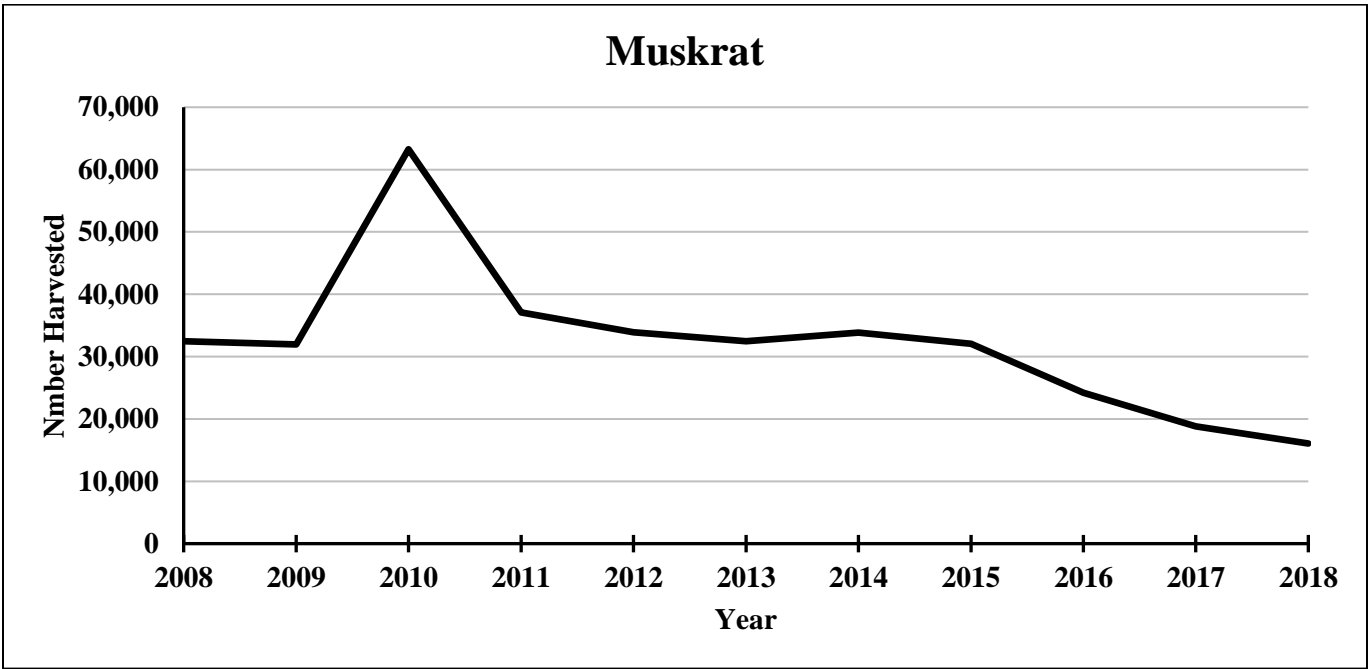


Figure 12. Muskrat harvest 2008 to 2018.

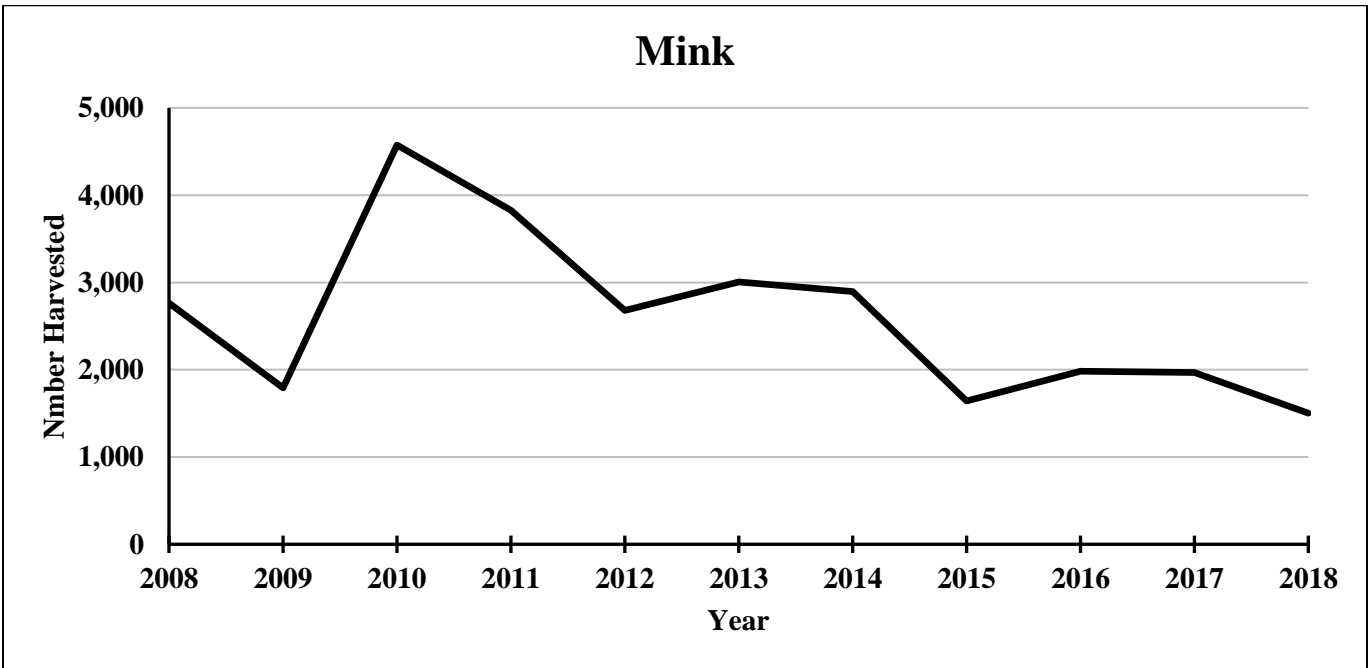


Figure 13. Mink harvest 2008 to 2018.

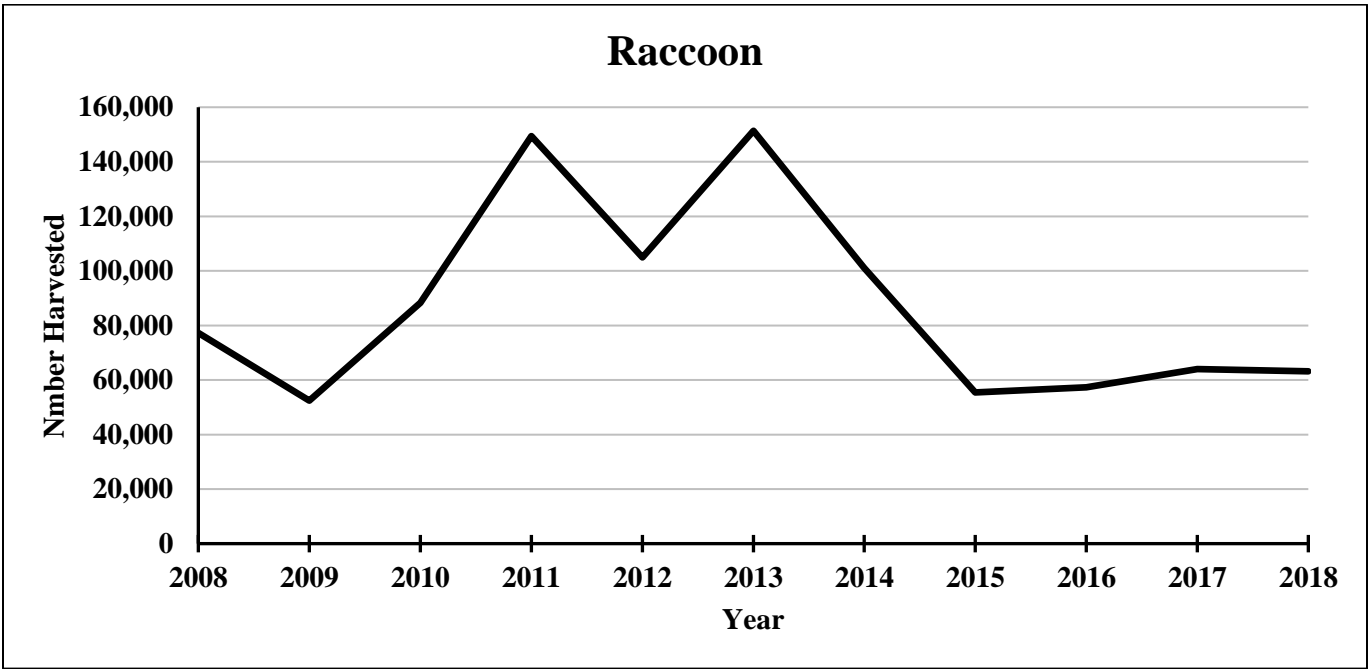


Figure 14. Raccoon harvest 2008 to 2018.

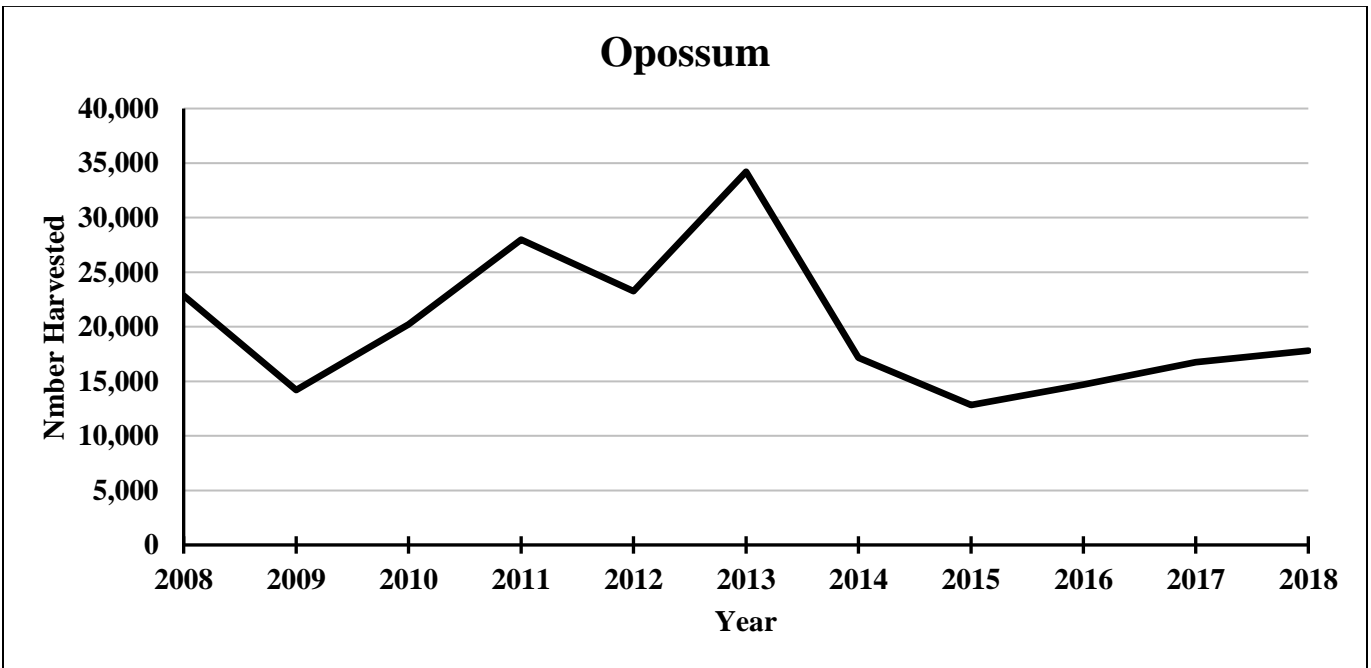


Figure 15. Opossum harvest 2008 to 2018.

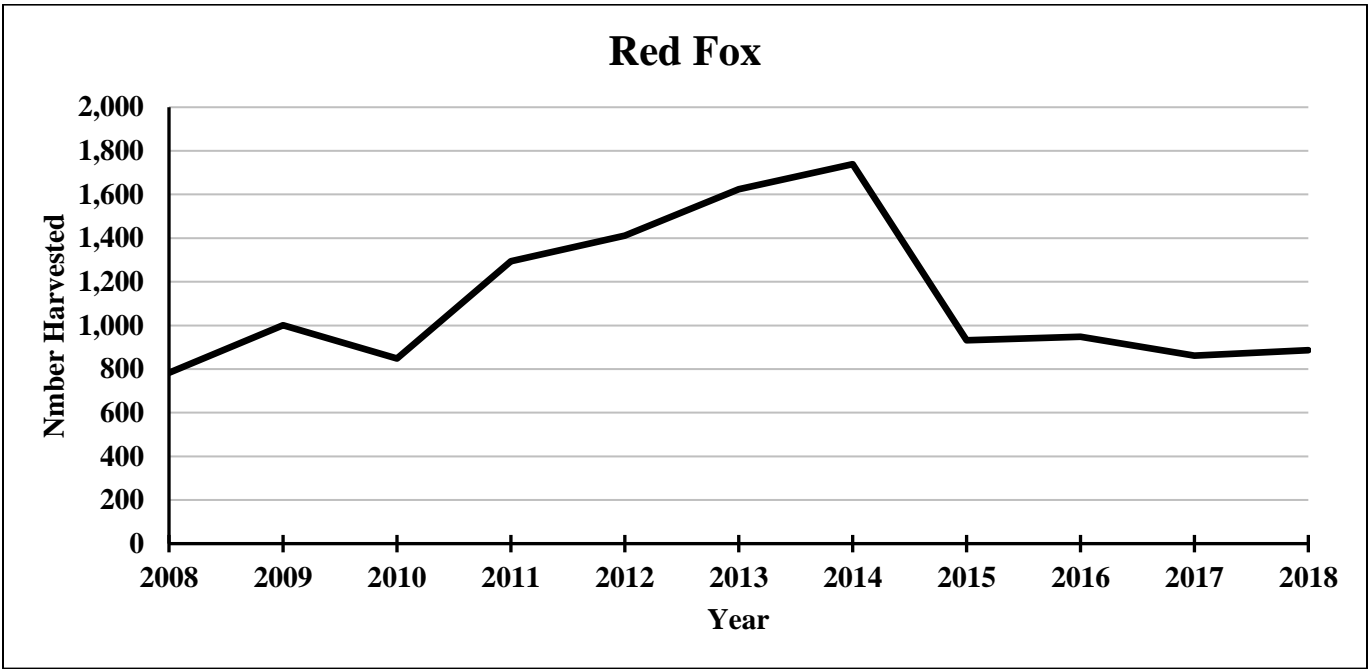


Figure 16. Red Fox harvest 2008 to 2018.

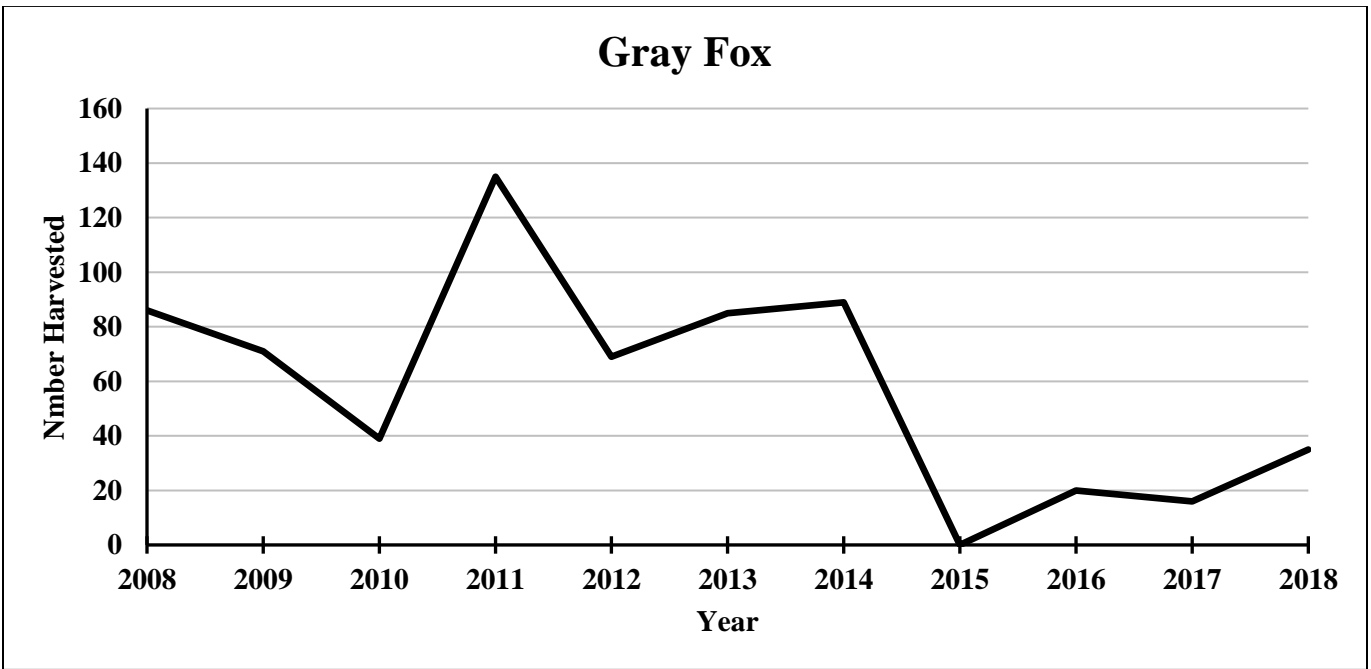


Figure 17. Gray Fox harvest 2008 to 2018.

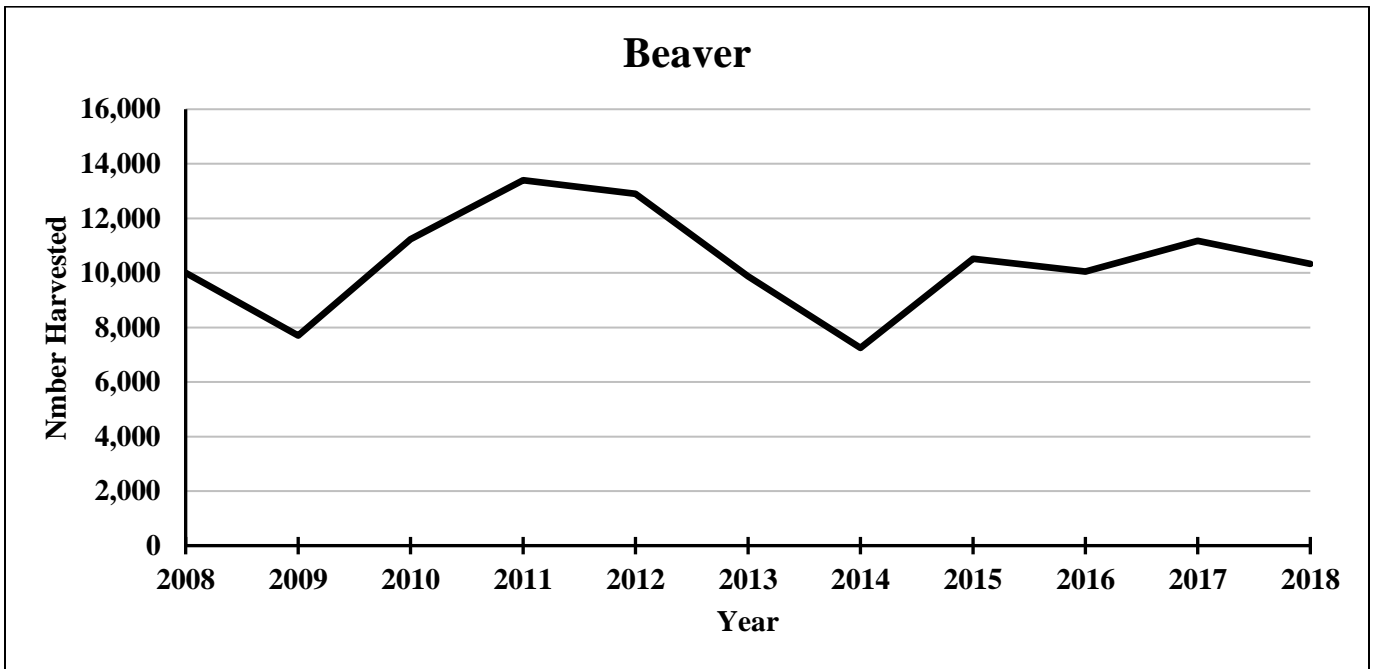


Figure 18. Beaver harvest 2008 to 2018.

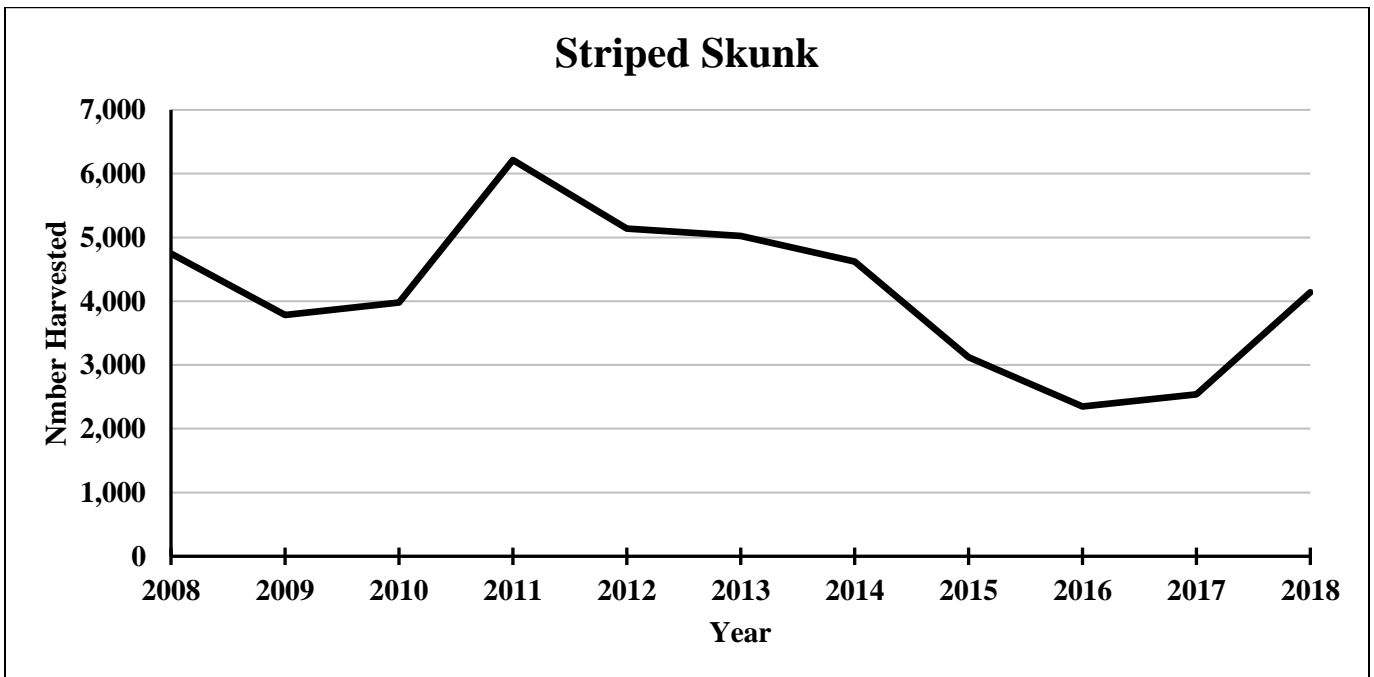


Figure 19. Striped Skunk harvest 2008 to 2018.

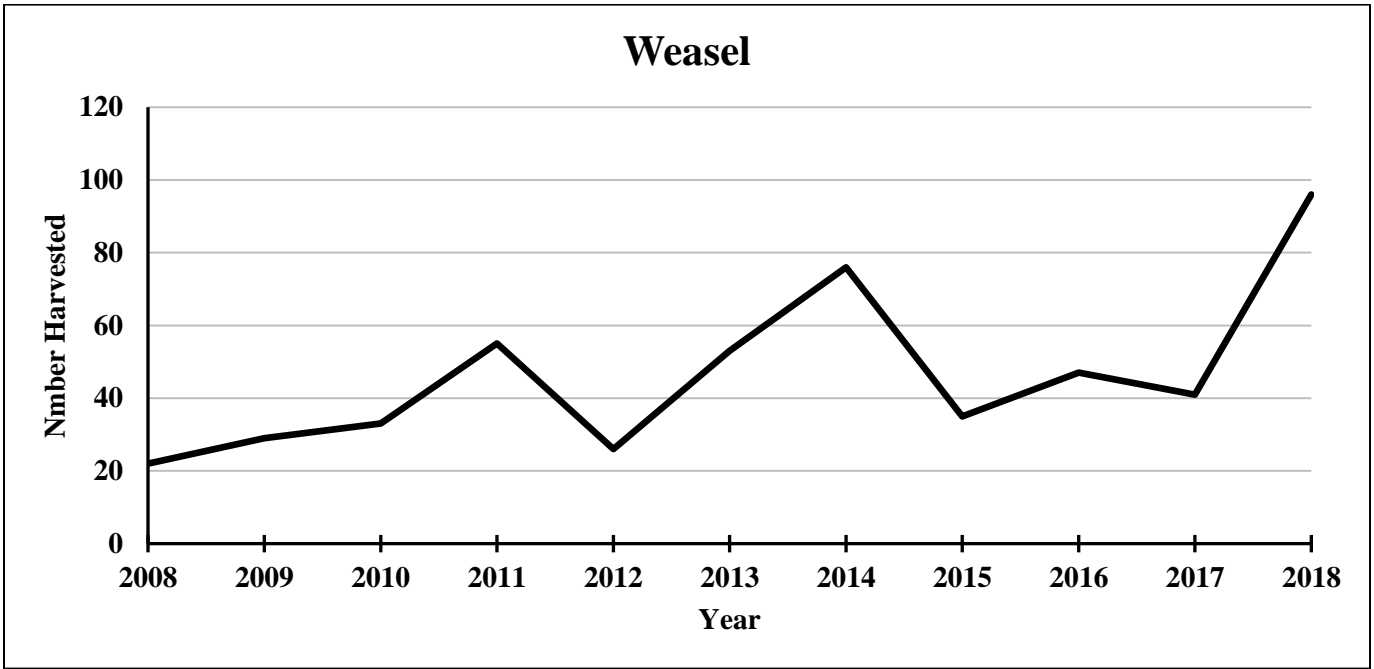


Figure 20. Weasel harvest 2008 to 2018.

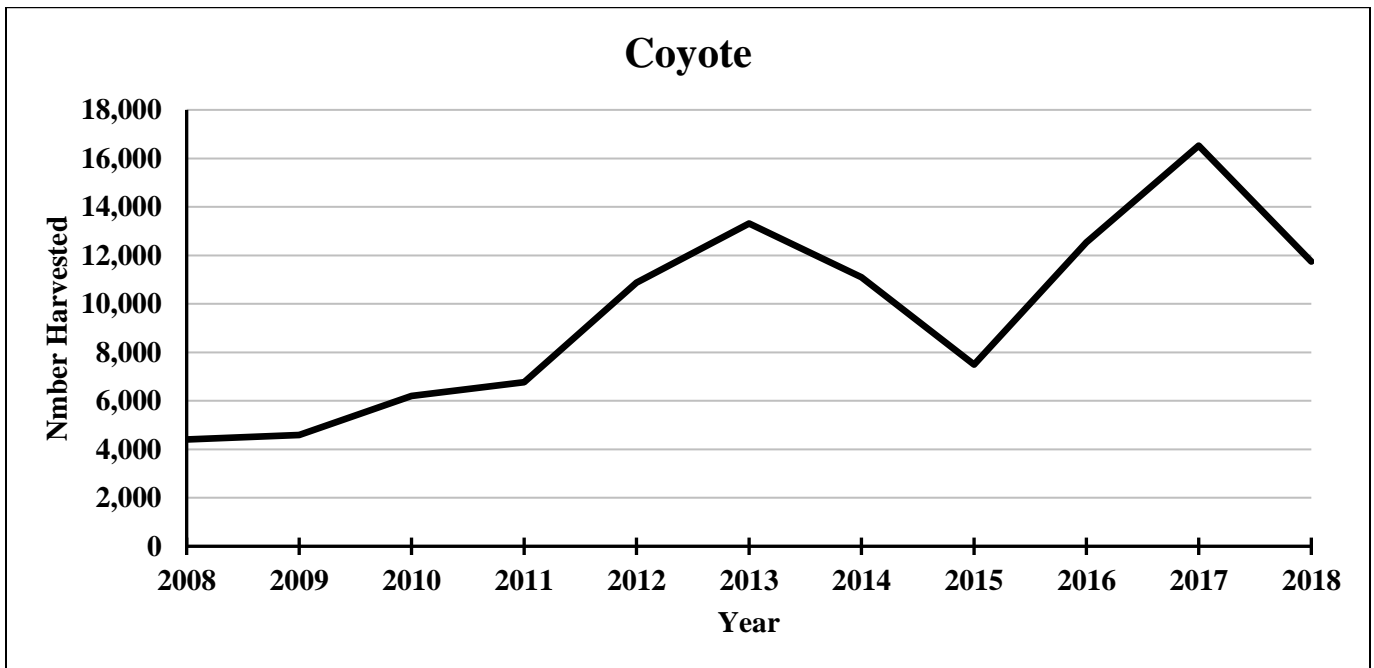


Figure 21. Coyote harvest 2008 to 2018.

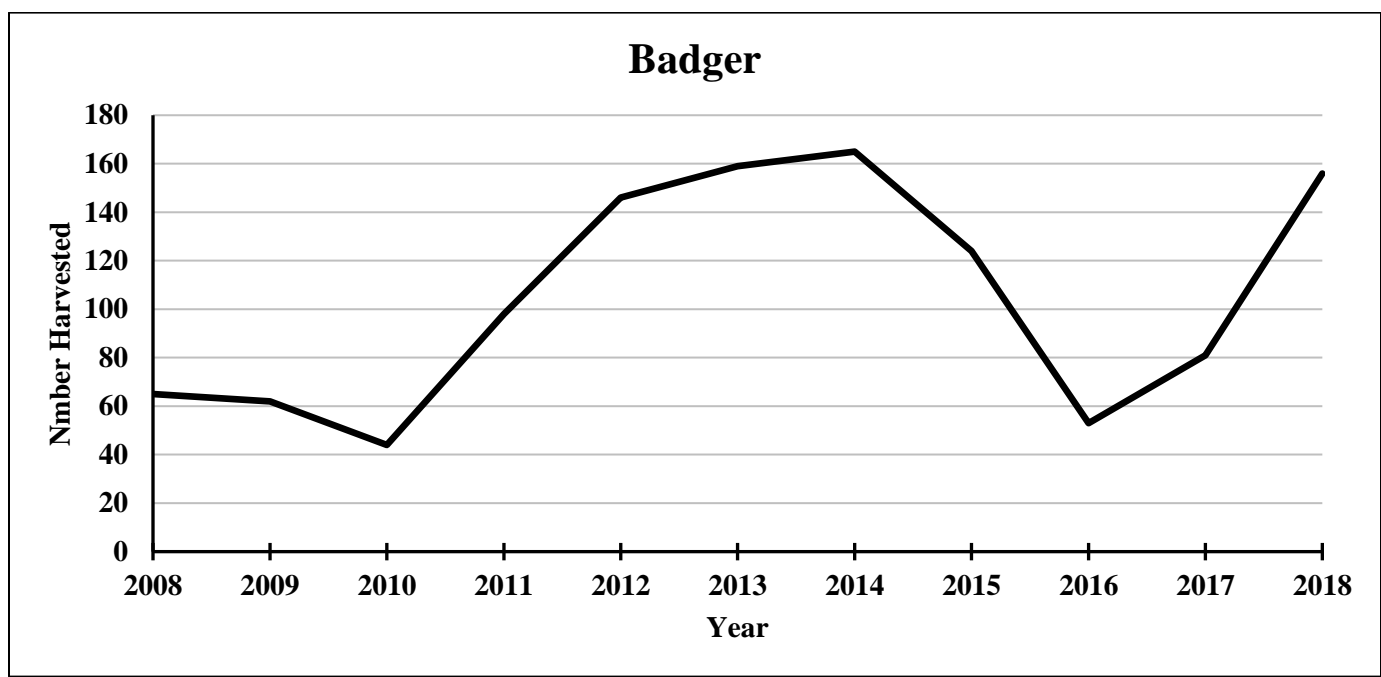


Figure 22. Badger harvest 2008 to 2018.

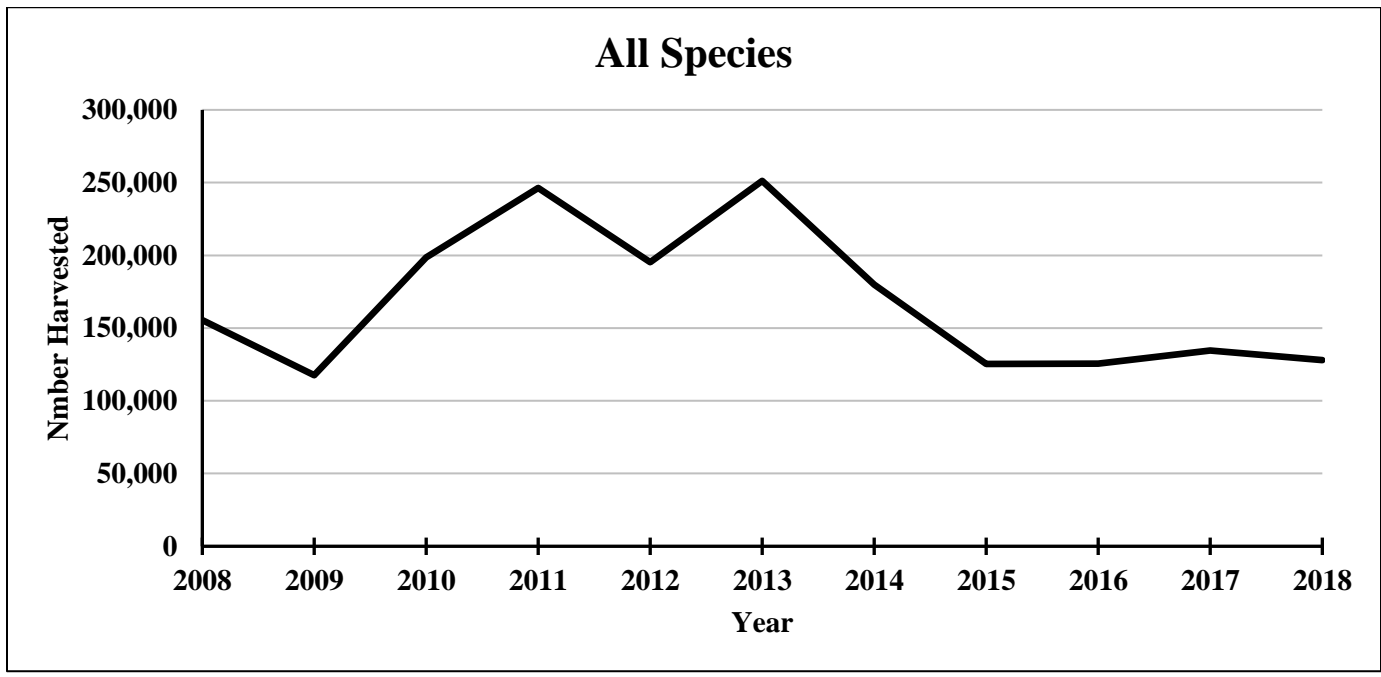


Figure 23. All species' harvest 2008 to 2018. *Years 2014 and prior do not include otter harvest and years prior to 2017 do not include bobcat.

Fur Hunting by Trappers

A total of 201 trappers, 27.2% of respondents, reported hunting furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in 2018-19 (Figure 24), and 21.4% of those who hunted furbearers used a dog. There were an estimated 2,200 trapper license purchasers who hunted furbearers in 2018-19. Their total harvest was estimated to be 19,100 furbearers or an average of 10.9 furbearers per hunter (Table 32). More trappers hunted raccoon and coyotes than any other species.

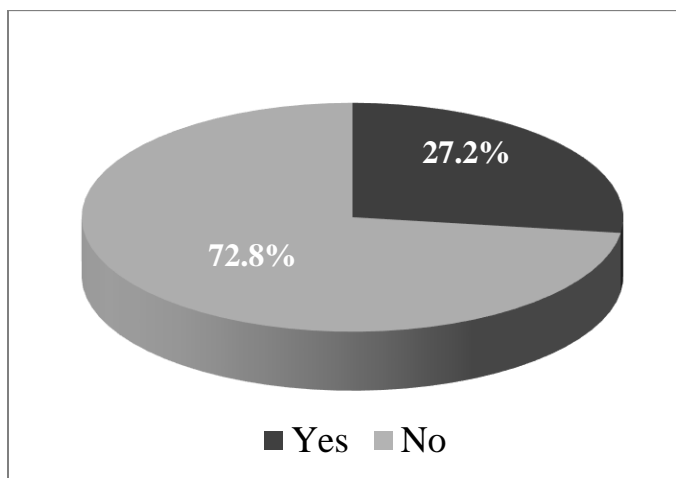


Figure 24. Trappers that hunted furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2018-19 season ($n = 739$).

Badger Sightings

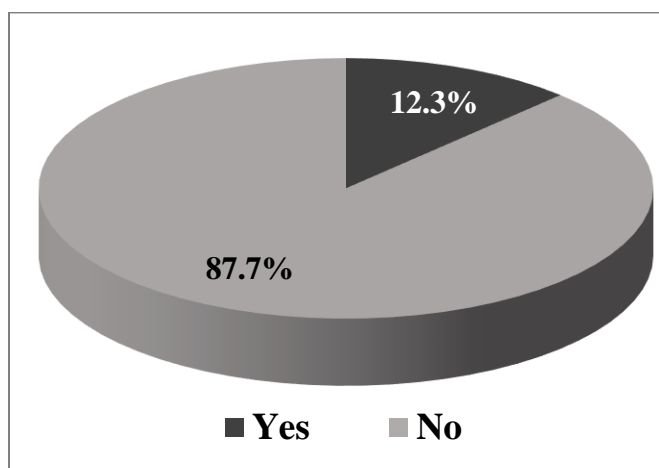


Figure 25. Trappers that sighted badgers in Illinois during 2018-19 trapping season ($n = 711$).

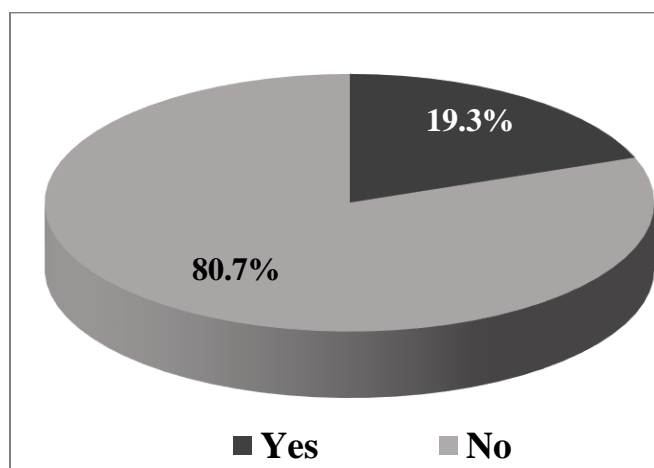


Figure 26. Trappers that sighted signs of badgers in Illinois during 2018-19 trapping season ($n = 701$).

Trappers were asked to identify if they had seen any badgers or signs of badgers in Illinois during the 2018-19 trapping season. Twelve percent of license purchasers sighted an actual badger (Figure 25), and 19.3% of trappers claimed to see signs of badgers (Figure 26). JoDaviess, Boone, Fulton, and Bureau were the counties reported most often for sightings of actual badgers. The counties most often reported for signs of badgers were Knox, Jo Daviess, Livingston, and Boone counties (Table 33).

Trapping Motivations

When asked to identify their motivations for trapping, controlling wildlife populations and recreational purposes/lifestyles were indicated as influencing factors by over two-thirds of the respondents (Figure 27). Financial incentive was the least influencing factor at just under 13%. “To control wildlife populations” (32.7%) was the most selected option for the number one reason for trapping in Illinois (Figure 28) followed by “recreational purposes/lifestyle” (28.5%). “Financial incentive” (2.1%) was the least selected number one motivation for trapping in Illinois. Trappers were also asked to identify the level of importance for several reasons to trap. Those who trapped in 2018-19 identified all but one factor as having a greater level of importance than those who did not trap, the exception was “for the extra income it provides” (Table 34). The most important reasons among both groups were “to remove nuisance animals” and “to control predator populations”.

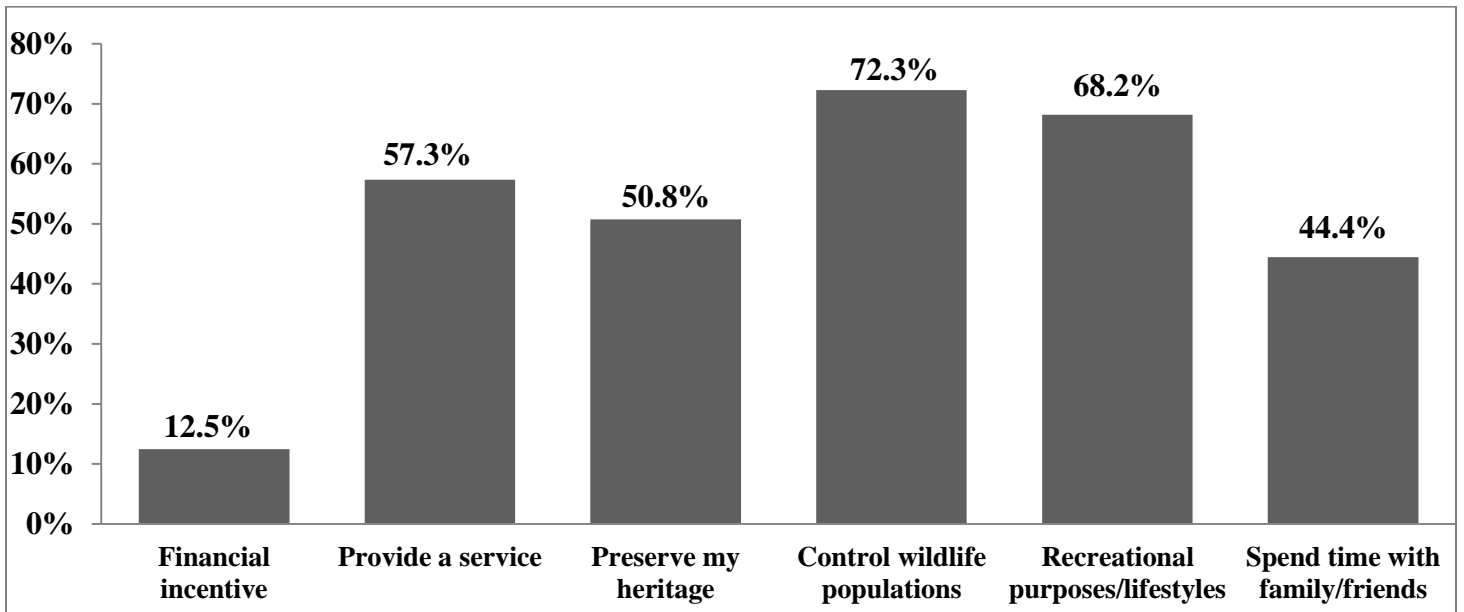


Figure 27. Motivations* for participating in trapping in Illinois ($n = 729$).

*Percentages are greater than 100% because trappers were able to select more than one motive.

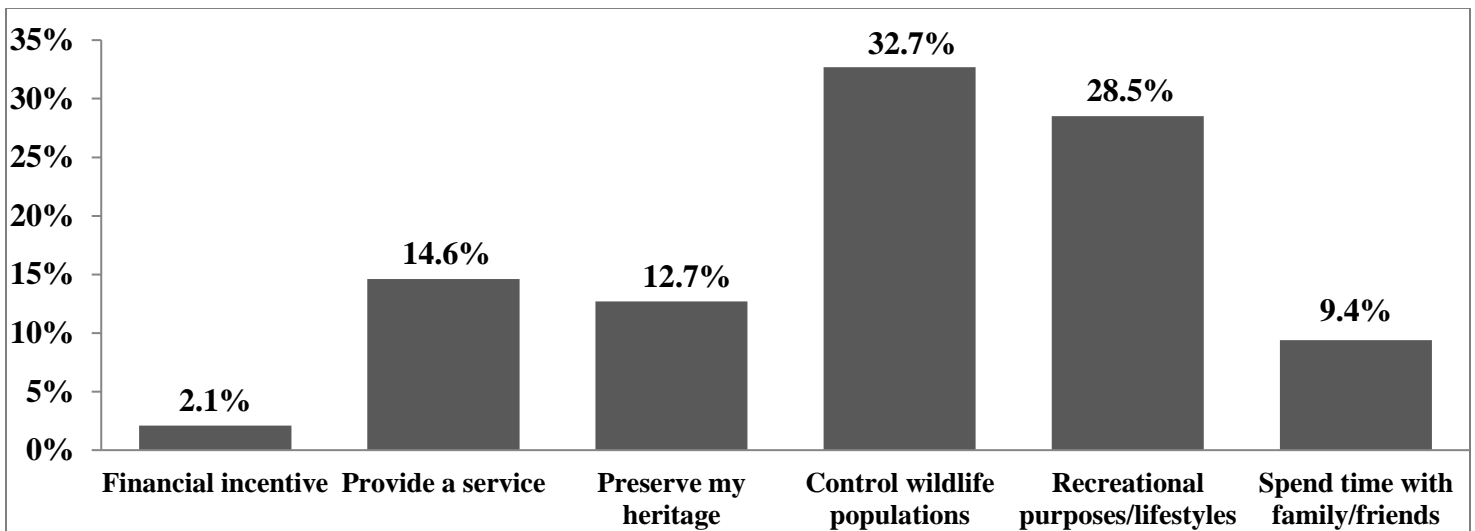


Figure 28. Respondents number one reason for trapping in Illinois ($n = 670$).

Bobcat permit process

Those who set traps during the 2018-19 season were less likely to be satisfied with the current lottery system for bobcat permits, and almost two-thirds of active trappers were not satisfied with the process (Figure 29). Under one-third (29.5%) of active trappers applied for a bobcat permit and 18.8% of those who did not trap this year applied for a permit (Figure 30). Of those who did apply for a bobcat permit, 28.1% were successfully

drawn. When asked about support for changing the current bobcat permit system, 83.7% of trappers were supportive of change (Figure 31). Opinions were not statistically different among those who had received a permit and those who did not as well as those who had trapped in 2018-19 and those who did not. When asked if they would support prohibiting trappers from receiving a permit in two consecutive years, trappers were split evenly (Figure 32). One in ten trappers (9.5%) accidentally caught a bobcat while trapping for a different species. A total of 84 bobcats were accidentally caught and 72 were released. When bobcats were incidentally caught the targeted species were most often coyote, raccoon, muskrat, and fox.

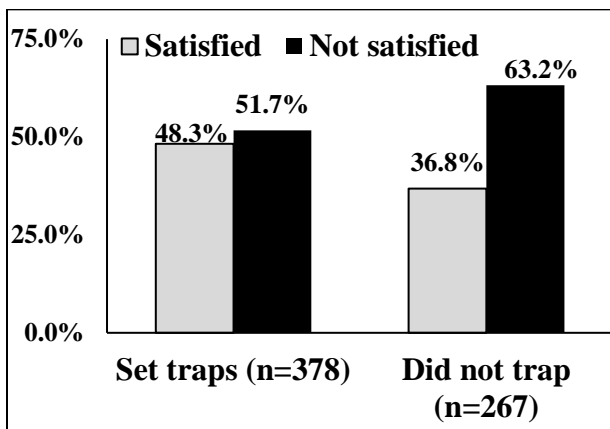


Figure 29. Percent of trappers satisfied with bobcat permit system.

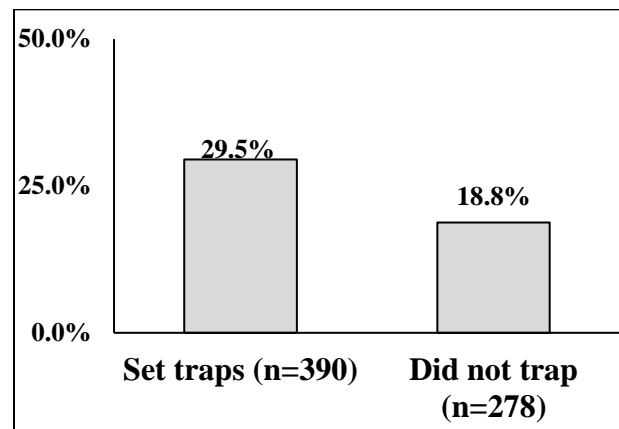


Figure 30. Percent of trappers who applied for a bobcat permit.

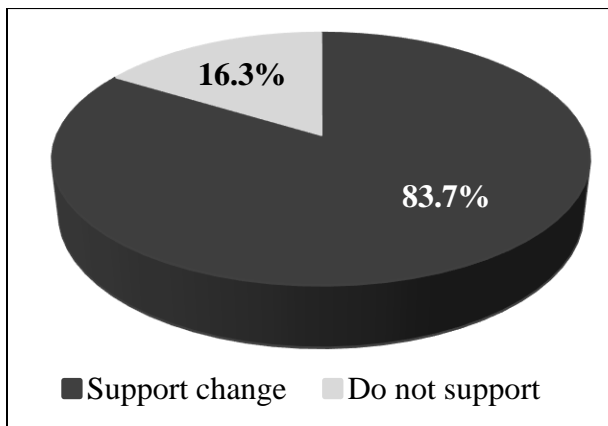


Figure 31. Percent of trappers who support changing the bobcat permit system (n = 575).

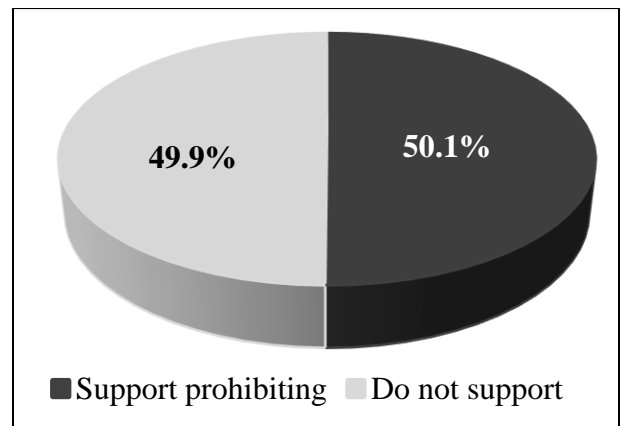


Figure 32. Percent of trappers who would support preventing receiving a bobcat permit two years in a row (n = 465).

Trap use and opinions of snares

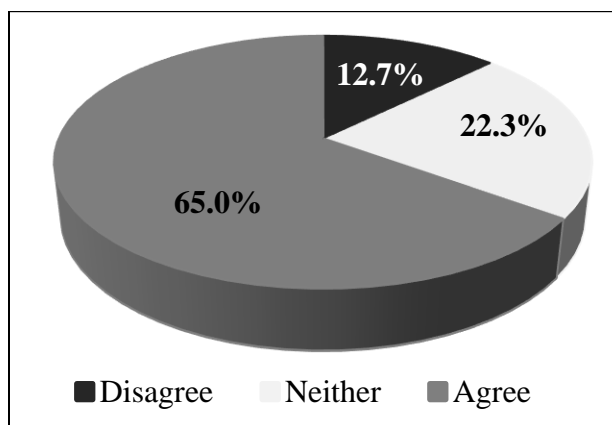


Figure 33. Percent of trappers who agree with allowing the use of cable restraints on private land ($n = 692$).

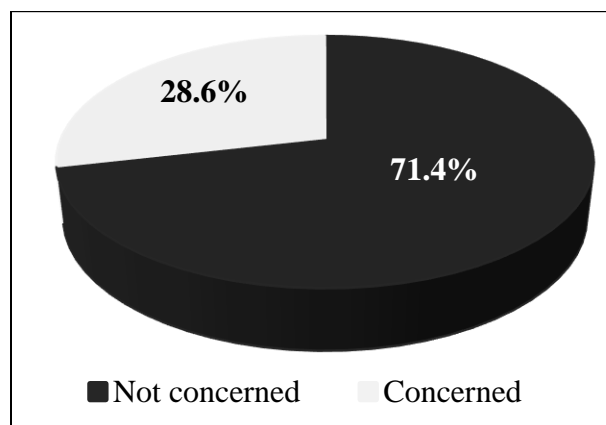


Figure 34. Percent of trappers who are concerned cable restraints pose a threat to non-target and domestic animals ($n = 697$).

A third of trappers agree IDNR should allow the use of cable restraints on private lands (Figure 33). Most trappers were not concerned that the use of cable restraints would pose a threat to non-target and domestic animals (Figure 34). Among the 28% of trappers that were concerned, hunting dogs (22.0%) and pets (21.0%) were the animals hunters were most concerned about. Eight percent of those trappers felt cable restraints could pose a threat to deer and 0.1% wrote in that rabbit may be threatened. Trappers were mostly not concerned about hunter's disapproval of cable restraint use by trappers (Figure 35). Similarly, they were not concerned about public disapproval, but to a lesser degree as 59.9% (Figure 36) were not concerned about public disapproval as compared to 70.1% not concerned about hunter's disapproval. When asked about the traps currently owned and used, 88% trappers identified steel leg hold traps as the type most commonly owned, 84% owned conibear, 53% owned cage style live traps, 23% owned dog proof, 15% owned soft catch, and 14% owned snares. During the 2018-19 trapping season conibear were the most used (71%) trap, followed by steel jaw leg hold traps (69%), and less than 50% of cage type live trap owners used them during the trapping season (Table 35). Trappers were most likely to set 1-10 traps of any given type (Table 35).

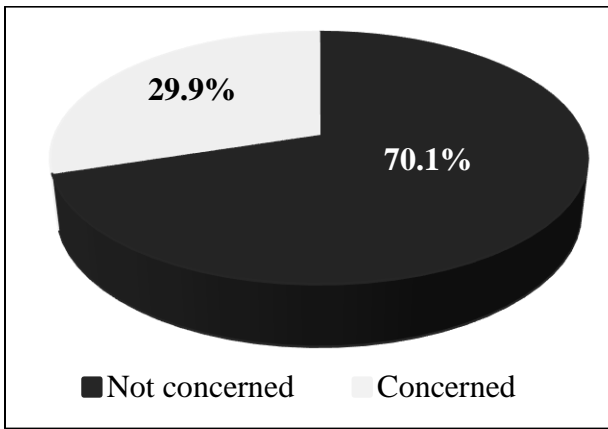


Figure 35. Percent of trappers who are concerned that hunters would disapprove of cable restraint use ($n = 695$).

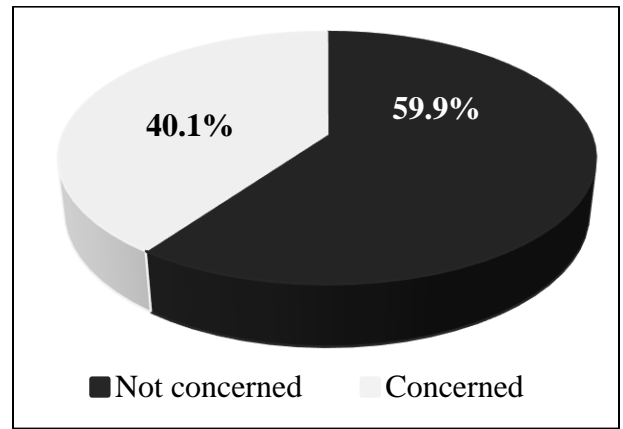


Figure 36. Percent of trappers who are concerned that non-hunting/non-trapping persons would disapprove of cable restraint ($n = 695$).

General Information

During the 2018-19 season, Illinois trappers were predominantly male (Figure 37), averaged 51.0 years (± 15.6 $n=721$) of age and had been trapping in Illinois for an average of 22.97 years (± 19.9 , $n=675$). Seventy-seven percent of trappers indicated that they had internet access in their homes ($n=706$). Almost half (46.9%) of trappers began trapping when they were between 10 and 19 years old (Figure 38).

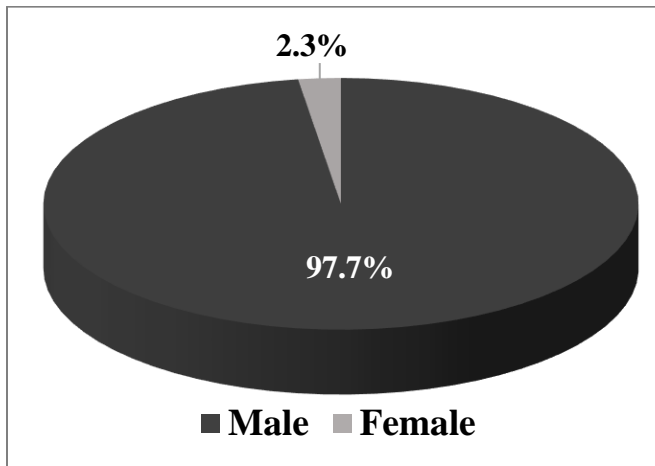


Figure 37. Gender of respondents ($n = 733$).

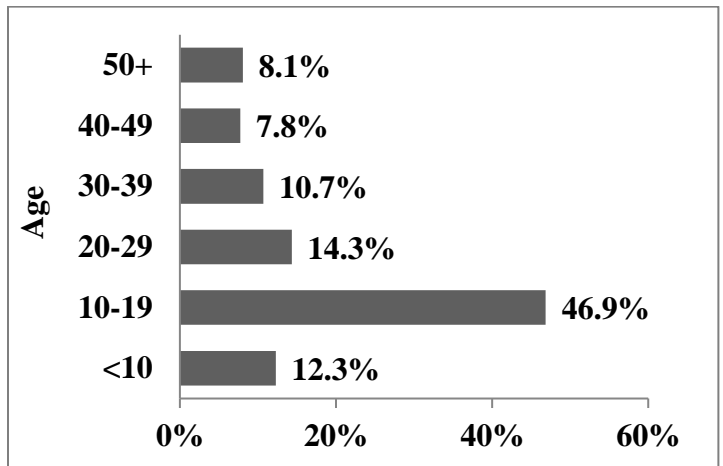


Figure 38. Age of trappers when they started trapping ($n = 683$).

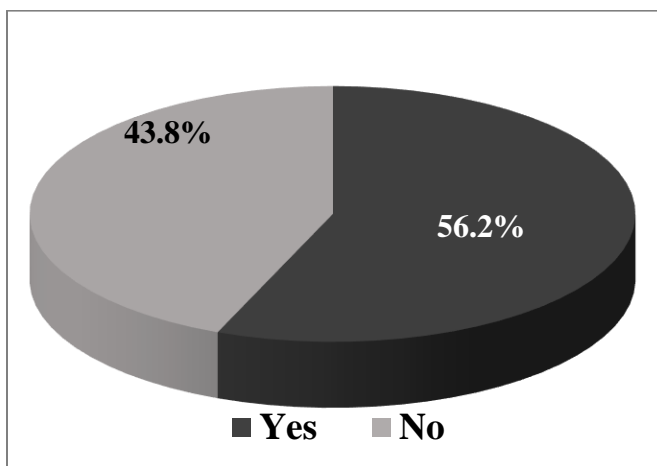


Figure 39. Percentage of respondents who have mentored a new trapper ($n = 706$).

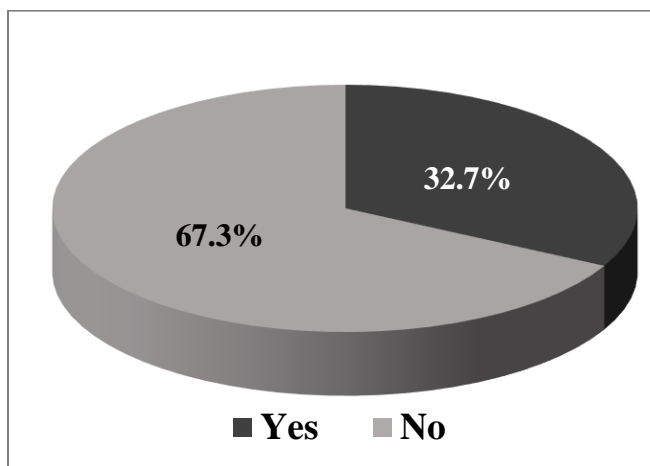


Figure 40. Percentage of respondents who know of someone who doesn't trap but is interested ($n = 704$).

Fifty-six percent of trappers (active and inactive) have ever mentored someone new to trapping (Figure 39). Over a quarter of trappers (active and inactive) know someone who does not currently trap but is interested in learning to do so (Figure 40). They knew of 412 people interested in learning to trap with an average age of $20.9 (\pm 12.61, n=412)$. Almost 30% of trappers indicated that they were self-taught when introduced to trapping, and another 26.5% were introduced to trapping by their father or mother, followed by friends (24.9%) (Figure 41). Most frequent write-in answers were an in-law and extended family.

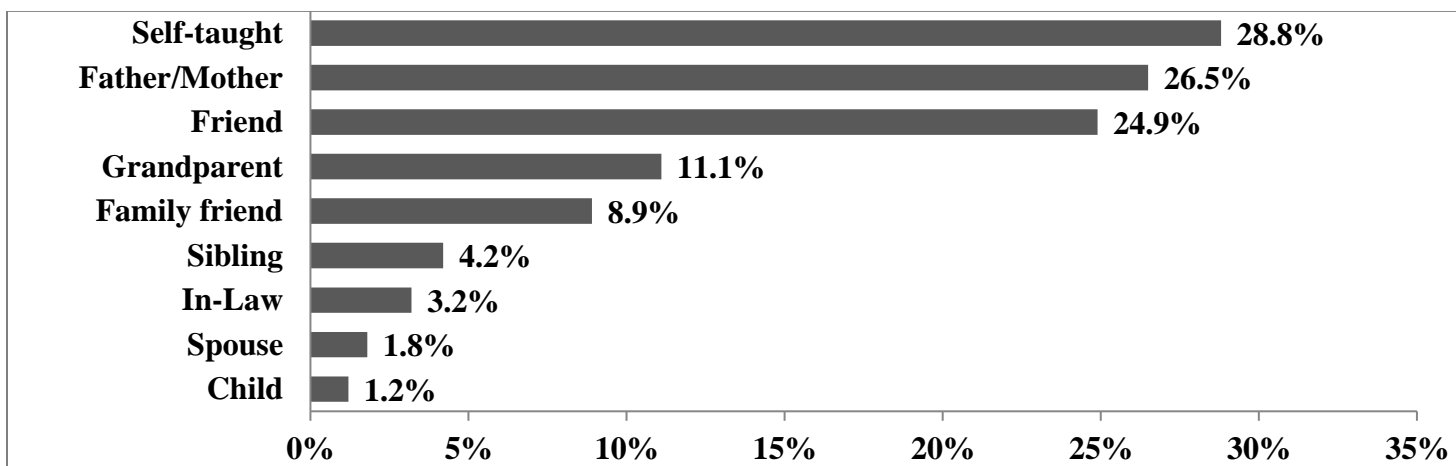


Figure 41. Respondents description of who introduced them to trapping ($n = 739$). Percentages are greater than 100 because trappers could indicate multiple introducers to trapping.

Trappers set traps most often (97.7%) on private property (Figure 42). Private property not owned by the respondent (57.2%), their own private property (34.3%), and private property owned by the family (5.8%) were where trappers set traps most often. Public property was the least often chosen land type (2.3%) of active trappers. The counties which reported the greatest number of active trappers were Pike, Fulton, LaSalle, and Whiteside (Table 35). The highest densities of trapper residences were in LaSalle, Whiteside, Jo Daviess, Clinton, and Sangamon counties (Table 36).

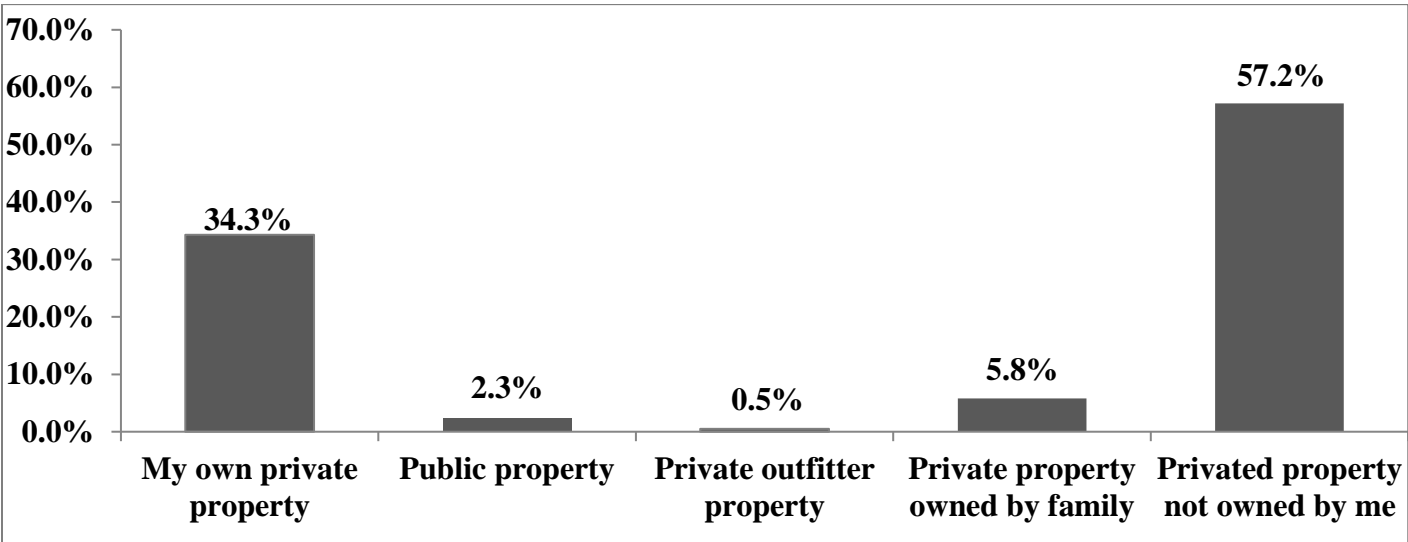


Figure 42. Description of type of land respondents set traps on most often in Illinois (*n* = 432).

REFERENCES

Anderson, W.L., and L.K. Campbell. 1992. Fur hunter/trapper survey, 1990-91. Illinois Department of Conservation, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Projects W-99-R-3 and W-112-R-1, Study 1, Job 2, Job Completion Report, 71 pp.

Table 1. Participation and harvest by fur trappers in Illinois, 2018-19 season ($n = 739$).

Species	Number of Reported Successful Trappers	% (Total Respondents)	Reported Harvest by Successful Trappers
Muskrat	148	8.7	1,852
Mink	64	9.9	173
Otter	73	43.3	172
Raccoon	320	24.0	7,277
Opossum	177	7.4	2,052
Red Fox	55	0.3	103
Gray Fox	2	21.9	4
Beaver	162	13.9	1,193
Striped Skunk	103	0.5	477
Weasel	4	21.9	11
Coyote	162	2.0	1,357
Badger	14	1.9	18
Bobcat	35	8.7	53

Table 2. Distribution of reported furbearer harvest among successful trappers in Illinois based on responses to the 2018-19 Illinois Trapper Survey.

Total Season Catch	Percentage of Trappers												
	Muskrat (n = 148)	Mink (n = 64)	Otter (n = 73)	Raccoon (n = 320)	Opossum (n = 177)	Red Fox (n = 55)	Gray Fox (n = 2)	Beaver (n = 162)	Striped Skunk (n = 103)	Weasel (n = 4)	Coyote (n = 162)	Badger (n = 14)	Bobcat (n = 35)
1-5	50.0%	87.5%	100.0%	28.8%	51.4%	96.4%	100.0%	59.3%	78.6%	75.0%	56.8%	100%	97.1%
6-10	14.9%	10.9%	0.0%	17.5%	22.0%	3.6%	0.0%	19.1%	10.7%	25.0%	17.9%	0.0%	2.9%
11-15	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%	11.6%	7.3%	0.0%	0.0%	8.6%	4.9%	0.0%	11.7%	0.0%	0.0%
16-20	9.5%	1.6%	0.0%	7.8%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.4%	1.9%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
21-25	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%	2.9%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%
>25	13.5%	0.0%	0.0%	28.1%	10.7%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	1.0%	0.0%	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 3. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of resident trappers in Illinois, 2018-19 (n = 739), 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	1,285 ± 189	20.0%	12.51 ± 2.94	16,079 ± 5,109	65.7%	10,557
Mink	556 ± 133	8.7%	2.70 ± 0.70	1,502 ± 609	63.0%	946
Otter	634 ± 141	9.9%	2.36 ± 0.35	1,493 ± 453	49.4%	738
Raccoon	2,778 ± 234	43.3%	22.74 ± 3.33	63,179 ± 11,708	61.8%	39,026
Opossum	1,537 ± 201	24.0%	11.59 ± 2.44	17,815 ± 5,027	22.9%	4,081
Red fox	478 ± 124	7.4%	1.87 ± 0.43	894 ± 358	37.9%	339
Gray fox	17 ± 25	0.3%	2.00 ± 1.96	35 ± 64	75.0%	26
Beaver	1,406 ± 195	21.9%	7.36 ± 1.22	10,358 ± 2,517	51.6%	5,348
Striped Skunk	894 ± 163	13.9%	4.63 ± 1.08	4,141 ± 1,410	12.2%	504
Weasel	35 ± 35	0.5%	2.75 ± 3.43	96 ± 165	72.7%	69
Coyote	1,406 ± 195	21.9%	8.38 ± 1.67	11,781 ± 3,255	56.2%	6,624
Badger	122 ± 64	1.9%	1.29 ± 0.26	156 ± 96	11.1%	17
Bobcat	304 ± 100	4.7%	1.51 ± 0.42	460 ± 229	1.9%	9

Table 4. Summary of 2018 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 148$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	148	11.5	1.6	19.1	2,822	30.0
Northeast Moraine	96	7.4	1.2	23.3	2,223	26.9
Mississippi Border-North	52	4.1	0.7	15.3	799	10.2
Mississippi Border-South	130	10.1	1.0	14.3	1,858	13.6
Western Prairie/Forest	130	10.1	0.9	12.1	1,571	10.9
Central Sand Prairie	26	2.0	0.6	14.3	373	9.0
Grand Prairie	373	29.1	0.7	11.0	4,089	7.8
Southern Plain	234	18.2	1.0	8.0	1,884	7.9
Wabash Border	69	5.4	1.0	5.8	399	5.9
Shawnee Hills	26	2.0	0.5	2.3	61	1.2
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1,285	100.0	0.9	12.5	16,079	11.0

Table 5. Summary of 2018 MINK trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 64$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	69	12.5	0.7	1.9	130	1.4
Northeast Moraine	17	3.1	0.2	2.5	43	0.5
Mississippi Border-North	17	3.1	0.2	1.0	17	0.2
Mississippi Border-South	69	12.5	0.5	5.9	408	3.0
Western Prairie/Forest	78	14.1	0.5	2.8	217	1.5
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	122	21.9	0.2	2.5	304	0.6
Southern Plain	148	26.6	0.6	2.1	304	1.3
Wabash Border	35	6.3	0.5	2.3	78	1.2
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	556	100.0	0.4	2.7	1,502	1.0

Table 6. Summary of 2018 OTTER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 73$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	61	2.2	0.6	1.9	113	1.2
Northeast Moraine	9	0.3	0.1	1.0	9	0.1
Mississippi Border-North	26	0.9	0.3	1.7	43	0.6
Mississippi Border-South	104	3.8	0.8	2.7	278	2.0
Western Prairie/Forest	96	3.4	0.7	2.3	217	1.5
Central Sand Prairie	17	0.6	0.4	3.0	52	1.3
Grand Prairie	96	3.4	0.2	1.8	174	0.3
Southern Plain	139	5.0	0.6	3.0	417	1.8
Wabash Border	69	2.5	1.0	2.3	156	2.3
Shawnee Hills	17	0.6	0.3	2.0	35	0.7
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	634	22.8	0.4	2.4	1,493	1.0

Table 7. Summary of 2018 RACCOON trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 320$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	313	11.3	3.3	25.0	7,805	83.0
Northeast Moraine	130	4.7	1.6	4.7	608	7.3
Mississippi Border-North	122	4.4	1.5	31.3	3,803	48.5
Mississippi Border-South	356	12.8	2.6	28.2	10,036	73.4
Western Prairie/Forest	382	13.8	2.6	20.9	7,996	55.4
Central Sand Prairie	96	3.4	2.3	17.4	1,658	40.0
Grand Prairie	634	22.8	1.2	18.4	11,651	22.1
Southern Plain	538	19.4	2.3	29.8	16,044	67.6
Wabash Border	139	5.0	2.1	15.3	2,127	31.5
Shawnee Hills	69	2.5	1.3	20.9	1,450	27.8
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	2,778	100.0	1.9	22.7	63,179	43.3

Table 8. Summary of 2018 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 177$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	165	10.7	1.8	14.3	2,362	25.1
Northeast Moraine	52	3.4	0.6	4.8	252	3.0
Mississippi Border-North	61	4.0	0.8	11.1	677	8.6
Mississippi Border-South	174	11.3	1.3	22.0	3,820	27.9
Western Prairie/Forest	217	14.1	1.5	10.1	2,197	15.2
Central Sand Prairie	43	2.8	1.0	18.4	799	19.3
Grand Prairie	356	23.2	0.7	5.9	2,110	4.0
Southern Plain	330	21.5	1.4	13.1	4,324	18.2
Wabash Border	104	6.8	1.5	7.3	764	11.3
Shawnee Hills	35	2.3	0.7	14.8	512	9.8
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1,537	100.0	1.1	11.6	17,815	12.2

Table 9. Summary of 2018 RED FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 55$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	43	9.1	0.5	1.0	43	0.5
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	17	3.6	0.2	1.5	26	0.3
Mississippi Border-South	69	14.5	0.5	1.6	113	0.8
Western Prairie/Forest	43	9.1	0.3	1.8	78	0.5
Central Sand Prairie	26	5.5	0.6	4.0	104	2.5
Grand Prairie	148	30.9	0.3	1.8	269	0.5
Southern Plain	104	21.8	0.4	2.1	217	0.9
Wabash Border	9	1.8	0.1	2.0	17	0.3
Shawnee Hills	17	3.6	0.3	1.5	26	0.5
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	478	100.0	0.3	1.9	894	0.6

Table 10. Summary of 2018 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 2$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	9	50.0	0.1	1.0	9	0.1
Western Prairie/Forest	9	50.0	0.1	3.0	26	0.2
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	17	100.0	0.0	2.0	35	0.0

Table 11. Summary of 2018 BEAVER 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	113	8.0	1.2	6.3	712	7.6
Northeast Moraine	104	7.4	1.3	9.1	946	11.4
Mississippi Border-North	61	4.3	0.8	5.0	304	3.9
Mississippi Border-South	174	12.3	1.3	10.1	1,754	12.8
Western Prairie/Forest	165	11.7	1.1	5.2	860	6.0
Central Sand Prairie	35	2.5	0.8	6.5	226	5.4
Grand Prairie	399	28.4	0.8	7.4	2,943	5.6
Southern Plain	252	17.9	1.1	7.1	1,797	7.6
Wabash Border	69	4.9	1.0	9.1	634	9.4
Shawnee Hills	35	2.5	0.7	5.3	182	3.5
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1,406	100.0	1.0	7.4	10,358	7.1

Table 12. Summary of 2018 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 103$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	87	9.7	0.9	6.1	530	5.6
Northeast Moraine	69	7.8	0.8	4.9	339	4.1
Mississippi Border-North	26	2.9	0.3	5.0	130	1.7
Mississippi Border-South	87	9.7	0.6	7.1	616	4.5
Western Prairie/Forest	104	11.7	0.7	3.2	330	2.3
Central Sand Prairie	17	1.9	0.4	13.5	234	5.7
Grand Prairie	200	22.3	0.4	4.2	842	1.6
Southern Plain	226	25.2	1.0	3.7	833	3.5
Wabash Border	61	6.8	0.9	3.9	234	3.5
Shawnee Hills	17	1.9	0.3	3.0	52	1.0
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	894	100.0	0.6	4.6	4,141	2.8

Table 13. Summary of 2018 WEASEL trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 4$).

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	9	25.0	0.1	1.0	9	0.1
Western Prairie/Forest	9	25.0	0.1	1.0	9	0.1
Central Sand Prairie	9	25.0	0.2	1.0	9	0.2
Grand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Plain	9	25.0	0.0	8.0	69	0.3
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	35	100.0	0.0	2.8	96	0.1

Table 14. Summary of 2018 COYOTE 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	165	11.7	1.8	7.6	1,259	13.4
Northeast Moraine	52	3.7	0.6	5.0	260	3.1
Mississippi Border-North	35	2.5	0.4	6.0	208	2.7
Mississippi Border-South	174	12.3	1.3	9.1	1,571	11.5
Western Prairie/Forest	156	11.1	1.1	9.2	1,441	10.0
Central Sand Prairie	43	3.1	1.0	2.2	96	2.3
Grand Prairie	408	29.0	0.8	9.6	3,907	7.4
Southern Plain	260	18.5	1.1	7.4	1,927	8.1
Wabash Border	78	5.6	1.2	11.1	868	12.9
Shawnee Hills	35	2.5	0.7	7.0	243	4.7
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1,406	100.0	1.0	8.4	11,781	8.1

Table 15. Summary of 2018 BADGER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n = 14$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	35	28.6	0.4	1.0	35	0.4
Northeast Moraine	17	14.3	0.2	1.5	26	0.3
Mississippi Border-North	9	7.1	0.1	1.0	9	0.1
Mississippi Border-South	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	17	14.3	0.1	1.0	17	0.1
Central Sand Prairie	9	7.1	0.2	2.0	17	0.4
Grand Prairie	35	28.6	0.1	1.5	52	0.1
Southern Plain	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	122	100.0	0.1	1.3	156	0.1

Table 16. Summary of 2018 BOBCAT trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois (*n* = 35).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	26	20.0	0.3	1.0	26	0.3
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	9	6.7	0.1	2.0	17	0.2
Mississippi Border-South	87	66.7	0.6	1.9	165	1.2
Western Prairie/Forest	52	40.0	0.4	1.5	78	0.5
Central Sand Prairie	9	6.7	0.2	1.0	9	0.2
Grand Prairie	9	6.7	0.0	1.0	9	0.0
Southern Plain	69	53.3	0.3	1.4	96	0.4
Wabash Border	26	20.0	0.4	1.7	43	0.6
Shawnee Hills	17	13.3	0.3	1.0	17	0.3
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	304	233.3	0.2	1.5	460	0.3

Table 17. Summary of 2018 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois (*n* = 148).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	781	60.8	1.0	14.1	10,991	68.4	13.4
South	504	39.2	0.8	10.1	5,088	31.6	7.9
Statewide	1,285	100.0	0.9	12.5	16,079	100.0	11.0

Table 18. Summary of 2018 MINK trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois (*n* = 64).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	260	46.9	0.3	2.3	608	40.5	0.7
South	295	53.1	0.5	3.0	894	59.5	1.4
Statewide	556	100.0	0.4	2.7	1,502	100.0	1.0

Table 19. Summary of 2018 OTTER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 73$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	278	10.0	0.3	2.0	547	0.9	0.7
South	356	12.8	0.6	2.7	946	1.5	1.5
Statewide	634	22.8	0.4	2.4	1,493	2.4	1.0

Table 20. Summary of 2018 RACCOON trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 320$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	1,467	52.8	1.8	20.2	29,614	46.9	36.2
South	1,311	47.2	2.0	25.6	33,565	53.1	52.2
Statewide	2,778	100.0	1.9	22.7	63,179	100.0	43.3

Table 21. Summary of 2018 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 177$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	790	51.4	1.0	9.9	7,822	43.9	9.6
South	747	48.6	1.2	13.4	9,993	56.1	15.6
Statewide	1,537	100.0	1.1	11.6	17,815	100.0	12.2

Table 22. Summary of 2018 RED FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 55$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	243	50.9	0.3	2.0	478	53.4	0.6
South	234	49.1	0.4	1.8	417	46.6	0.6
Statewide	478	100.0	0.3	1.9	894	100.0	0.6

Table 23. Summary of 2018 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 2$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	9	50.0	0.0	3.0	26	75.0	0.0
South	9	50.0	0.0	1.0	9	25.0	0.0
Statewide	17	100.0	0.0	2.0	35	100.0	0.0

Table 24. Summary of 2018 BEAVER 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	816	58.0	1.0	7.1	5,834	56.3	7.1
South	590	42.0	0.9	7.7	4,523	43.7	7.0
Statewide	1,406	100.0	1.0	7.4	10,358	100.0	7.1

Table 25. Summary of 2018 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 103$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	469	52.4	0.6	4.9	2,309	55.8	2.8
South	425	47.6	0.7	4.3	1,832	44.2	2.9
Statewide	894	100.0	0.6	4.6	4,141	100.0	2.8

Table 26. Summary of 2018 WEASEL trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 4$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	17	50.0	0.0	1.0	17	18.2	0.0
South	17	50.0	0.0	4.5	78	81.8	0.1
Statewide	35	100.0	0.0	2.8	96	100.0	0.1

Table 27. Summary of 2018 COYOTE 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	738	52.5	0.9	8.4	6,199	52.6	7.6
South	669	47.5	1.0	8.4	5,583	47.4	8.7
Statewide	1406	100.0	1.0	8.4	11,781	100.0	8.1

Table 28. Summary of 2018 BADGER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 14$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	104	85.7	0.1	1.3	130	83.3	0.2
South	17	14.3	0.0	1.5	26	16.7	0.0
Statewide	122	100.0	0.1	1.3	156	100.0	0.1

Table 29. Summary of 2018 BOBCAT trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n = 35$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	78	25.7	0.1	1.4	113	24.5	0.1
South	226	74.3	0.4	1.5	347	75.5	0.5
Statewide	304	100.0	0.2	1.5	460	100.0	0.3

Table 30. The number of pelts sold by successful trappers (i.e., caught ≥ 1 animal) for 13 species of furbearers in Illinois, 2018-19 season ($n = 739$).

Species	Number of Pelts Sold	Pelts Sold in Illinois		Pelts Sold Outside Illinois	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Muskrat	10,557	8,135	77.1	2,422	22.9
Mink	946	573	60.6	373	39.4
Otter	738	391	52.9	347	47.1
Raccoon	39,026	23,867	61.2	15,159	38.8
Opossum	4,081	2,388	58.5	1,693	41.5
Red Fox	339	278	82.1	61	17.9
Gray Fox	26	26	100.0	-	-
Beaver	5,348	3,273	61.2	2,075	38.8
Striped Skunk	504	408	81.0	96	19.0
Weasel	69	-	-	69	100.0
Coyote	6,624	3,968	59.9	2,657	40.1
Badger	17	17	100.0	-	-
Bobcat	9	9	100.0	-	-
Total	68,275	43,323	63.5	24,952	36.5

Table 31. Estimated statewide harvest by resident Illinois trappers, 2007-2018.

Season	Muskrat	Mink	Otter	Raccoon	Opossum	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Beaver	Striped Skunk	Weasel	Coyote	Badger	Bobcat	All Species
2007	35,461	3,563	-	88,784	27,011	1,316	191	9,394	6,558	53	9,216	84		181,631
2008	32,480	2,764	-	77,310	22,839	783	86	9,997	4,745	22	4,405	65		155,496
2009	31,942	1,792	-	52,431	14,203	1,001	71	7,697	3,784	29	4,585	62		117,597
2010	63,257	4,574	-	88,233	20,213	848	39	11,238	3,981	33	6,193	44		198,653
2011	37,068	3,828	-	149,449	27,983	1,294	135	13,397	6,214	55	6,766	98		246,286
2012	33,906	2,678	-	104,947	23,264	1,412	69	12,898	5,140	26	10,874	146		195,360
2013	32,467	3,005	-	151,367	34,208	1,624	85	9,874	5,022	53	13,314	159		251,178
2014	33,860	2,895	-	101,035	17,152	1,739	89	7,249	4,621	76	11,096	165		179,978
2015	32,038	1,641	1,198	55,390	12,829	932	0	10,514	3,123	35	7,488	124		125,314
2016	24,217	1,982	1,388	57,324	14,695	948	20	10,050	2,349	47	12,532	53		125,605
2017	18,795	1,969	1,627	64,025	16,753	862	16	11,179	2,539	41	16,525	81	146	134,560
2018	16,079	1,502	1,493	63,179	17,815	894	35	10,358	4,141	96	11,781	156	460	127,990

Table 32. Summary of fur hunting activities reported by trappers^a in Illinois, 2018-19.

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	92	1,149	12.5	12.4%	9,976
Opossum	20	149	7.5	2.7%	1,294
Red Fox	9	14	1.6	1.2%	122
Gray Fox	2	2	1.0	0.3%	17
Striped Skunk	12	20	1.7	1.6%	174
Coyote	134	866	6.5	18.1%	7,519
All species	201 ^{b c}	2,200	10.9	27.2%	19,100

^a Active and inactive trappers.

^b Successful and unsuccessful hunters.

^c Total for hunters of all species may be less than the sum of values because some trappers hunted >1 species.

Table 33. Number of trappers who saw badgers or signs of badgers by the county in Illinois.

County	Saw Badger <i>n</i>	Saw Signs <i>n</i>	County	Saw Badger <i>n</i>	Saw Signs <i>n</i>
Adams	1	2	Macon	4	2
Bond	0	1	Marshall	0	1
Boone	6	6	Mason	4	5
Brown	1	1	McDonough	1	1
Bureau	4	5	McHenry	4	4
Calhoun	1	1	McLean	2	4
Carroll	2	3	Menard	1	0
Cass	2	2	Mercer	2	3
Champaign	3	4	Monroe	0	1
Clay	1	1	Montgomery	3	2
Clinton	0	1	Morgan	2	0
Cook	2	0	Moultrie	0	1
Crawford	0	1	Ogle	0	2
De Kalb	0	1	Peoria	2	4
DeWitt	0	1	Perry	0	1
Douglas	0	1	Piatt	2	2
Fayette	0	1	Pike	3	5
Ford	1	2	Pope	0	1
Fulton	6	5	Putnam	0	5
Gallatin	1	1	Randolph	3	1
Greene	1	1	Rock Island	1	0
Grundy	1	1	Sangamon	1	2
Hancock	3	4	Scott	1	1
Henderson	2	3	Shelby	2	2
Henry	4	5	Stark	0	1
Iroquois	2	3	Stephenson	3	6
Jefferson	1	1	Vermillion	1	2
Jersey	1	1	Wabash	1	0
Jo Daviess	7	8	Warren	2	5
Kankakee	1	2	Washington	1	2
Kendall	0	1	Wayne	2	2
Knox	4	14	White	1	1
LaSalle	2	3	Whiteside	1	5
Lee	0	3	Will	1	1
Livingston	1	7	Winnebago	2	2
Logan	2	3	Woodford	1	1

Table 34. Importance of reasons for trapping.

	Those who trapped in 2018-19						Those who did not trap in 2018-19					
	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	\bar{x}	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	\bar{x}
Trapping is a central part of my life	24.5%	23.4%	34.4%	11.0%	6.6%	3.1(1.2)	11.9%	18.4%	31.3%	21.4%	17.0%	2.5(1.2)
To learn about wildlife	14.4%	10.3%	29.2%	28.8%	17.3%	3.5(1.2)	8.7%	8.7%	27.3%	31.5%	23.8%	3.2(1.3)
To control predator populations	3.7%	6.3%	18.1%	35.4%	36.5%	4.2(1.1)	2.6%	5.8%	14.2%	24.8%	52.6%	3.9(1.1)
Trapping gives me an opportunity to be my own boss	41.3%	14.1%	22.3%	10.4%	11.9%	2.5(1.5)	41.7%	12.7%	18.9%	10.4%	16.4%	2.4(1.4)
Trapping is a fun activity	6.6%	5.5%	23.2%	33.9%	30.6%	4.1(1.1)	5.7%	3.2%	18.0%	25.9%	47.2%	3.8(1.1)
To share my experience with friends	18.3%	10.4%	29.1%	23.9%	18.3%	3.4(1.4)	14.3%	9.4%	23.6%	25.9%	26.8%	3.1(1.3)
To feel close to nature and the land	7.4%	9.2%	19.2%	33.2%	31.0%	3.9(1.2)	7.4%	5.2%	16.5%	28.4%	42.5%	3.7(1.2)
To control disease in wildlife populations	6.6%	12.1%	21.0%	29.8%	30.5%	3.9(1.2)	4.9%	8.3%	18.5%	24.4%	43.9%	3.7(1.2)
To remain part of the heritage of trapping	10.7%	12.1%	19.9%	25.7%	31.6%	4.0(1.2)	6.9%	6.9%	16.2%	23.3%	46.7%	3.6(1.3)
To share my skills and knowledge with others	12.2%	13.7%	25.6%	26.7%	21.9%	3.6(1.3)	9.6%	10.1%	23.1%	24.1%	33.2%	3.3(1.3)
For the independence	21.1%	14.3%	28.2%	18.4%	18.0%	3.2(1.4)	18.1%	13.6%	23.6%	20.1%	24.6%	3.0(1.4)
To share my experience with family	13.4%	9.7%	23.9%	26.9%	26.1%	3.7(1.3)	11.6%	6.9%	19.1%	26.5%	35.9%	3.4(1.3)
To observe wildlife	7.4%	7.8%	20.4%	34.2%	30.1%	4.0(1.2)	6.4%	4.9%	17.7%	28.3%	42.8%	3.7(1.2)
To maintain a rural American tradition	9.3%	11.5%	21.2%	23.8%	34.2%	3.9(1.3)	8.1%	6.4%	17.7%	23.4%	44.3%	3.6(1.3)
For the challenge	9.7%	5.2%	22.3%	32.3%	30.5%	4.1(1.1)	5.4%	3.9%	16.0%	27.3%	47.4%	3.7(1.2)
To remove nuisance animals	3.7%	4.0%	16.8%	30.4%	45.1%	4.3(1.0)	2.6%	4.1%	11.7%	25.6%	56.0%	4.1(1.1)
To provide a service to landowners	13.7%	10.7%	20.3%	28.4%	26.9%	3.9(1.3)	8.0%	7.3%	16.5%	25.8%	42.3%	3.4(1.4)
Trapping is my favorite activity	22.0%	23.9%	31.3%	13.8%	9.0%	3.2(1.3)	13.4%	15.9%	31.5%	20.7%	18.5%	2.6(1.2)
For the extra income it provides	49.6%	21.6%	17.5%	7.1%	4.1%	1.9(1.1)	54.8%	19.2%	16.5%	4.9%	4.7%	1.9(1.2)
To maintain a family tradition	26.7%	14.4%	20.0%	21.5%	17.4%	3.1(1.5)	23.9%	10.1%	21.7%	20.2%	24.1%	2.9(1.5)
To interact with others	25.0%	17.9%	28.0%	19.4%	9.7%	2.8(1.4)	28.5%	11.1%	29.5%	18.6%	12.4%	2.7(1.3)
To be self-reliant	27.6%	16.4%	25.0%	17.2%	13.8%	2.9(1.5)	27.6%	10.6%	21.7%	20.9%	19.2%	2.7(1.4)

Table 35. Types of traps owned and used by active Illinois trappers.

# of traps	Conibear traps (n = 362)		Steel jaw leg hold traps (n = 379)		Soft catch/padded leg (n = 65)		Cage type live traps (n = 228)		Snares (n = 62)		Dog proof (n = 99)	
	Owned	Set	Owned	Set	Owned	Set	Owned	Set	Owned	Set	Owned	Set
0	-	28.7%	-	30.6%	-	49.2%	-	50.9%	-	59.7%	-	16.2%
1-10	33.1%	47.5%	26.1%	38.8%	63.1%	40.0%	91.2%	48.2%	33.9%	37.1%	27.3%	43.4%
11-20	19.9%	16.0%	20.3%	19.8%	16.9%	6.2%	6.1%	0.9%	25.8%	0.0%	25.3%	28.3%
21-30	13.8%	5.2%	11.9%	5.8%	9.2%	3.1%	0.9%	0.0%	22.6%	1.6%	20.2%	4.0%
31-40	6.6%	1.1%	5.5%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	6.5%	1.6%	8.1%	3.0%
41-50	7.5%	0.8%	9.2%	1.8%	6.2%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	3.2%	0.0%	7.1%	3.0%
51-100	14.1%	0.6%	15.8%	1.6%	4.6%	1.5%	0.4%	0.0%	4.8%	0.0%	7.1%	2.0%
>100	5.0%	0.0%	11.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%	0.0%	5.1%	1.0%

Table 36. Distribution of active trappers by county trapped most in Illinois based on responses to the 2018-19 Illinois Trapper Survey ($n = 429$).

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

Table 37. Distribution of respondents by county of residence ($n = 739$).

County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>
Adams	14	Hardin	-	Morgan	7
Alexander	4	Henderson	6	Moultrie	4
Bond	6	Henry	7	Ogle	6
Boone	6	Iroquois	8	Peoria	5
Brown	5	Jackson	7	Perry	7
Bureau	14	Jasper	12	Piatt	5
Calhoun	6	Jefferson	10	Pike	7
Carroll	6	Jersey	4	Pope	3
Cass	5	Jo Daviess	15	Pulaski	2
Champaign	16	Johnson	2	Putnam	6
Christian	6	Kane	8	Randolph	21
Clark	8	Kankakee	8	Richland	9
Clay	2	Kendall	7	Rock Island	3
Clinton	19	Knox	18	St. Clair	16
Coles	4	Lake	10	Saline	3
Cook	10	LaSalle	14	Sangamon	8
Crawford	7	Lawrence	5	Schuyler	6
Cumberland	5	Lee	1	Scott	2
DeKalb	4	Livingston	13	Shelby	10
DeWitt	2	Logan	4	Stark	1
Douglas	4	McDonough	7	Stephenson	16
DuPage	6	McHenry	12	Tazewell	9
Edgar	-	McLean	11	Union	3
Edwards	1	Macon	6	Vermilion	12
Effingham	13	Macoupin	12	Wabash	3
Fayette	5	Madison	11	Warren	4
Ford	3	Marion	5	Washington	10
Franklin	4	Marshall	2	Wayne	5
Fulton	16	Mason	4	White	9
Gallatin	3	Massac	4	Whiteside	18
Greene	9	Menard	1	Will	11
Grundy	9	Mercer	7	Williamson	3
Hamilton	1	Monroe	11	Winnebago	7
Hancock	5	Montgomery	10	Woodford	8

Appendix A

Illinois Trapper Survey: 2018-19 Season



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

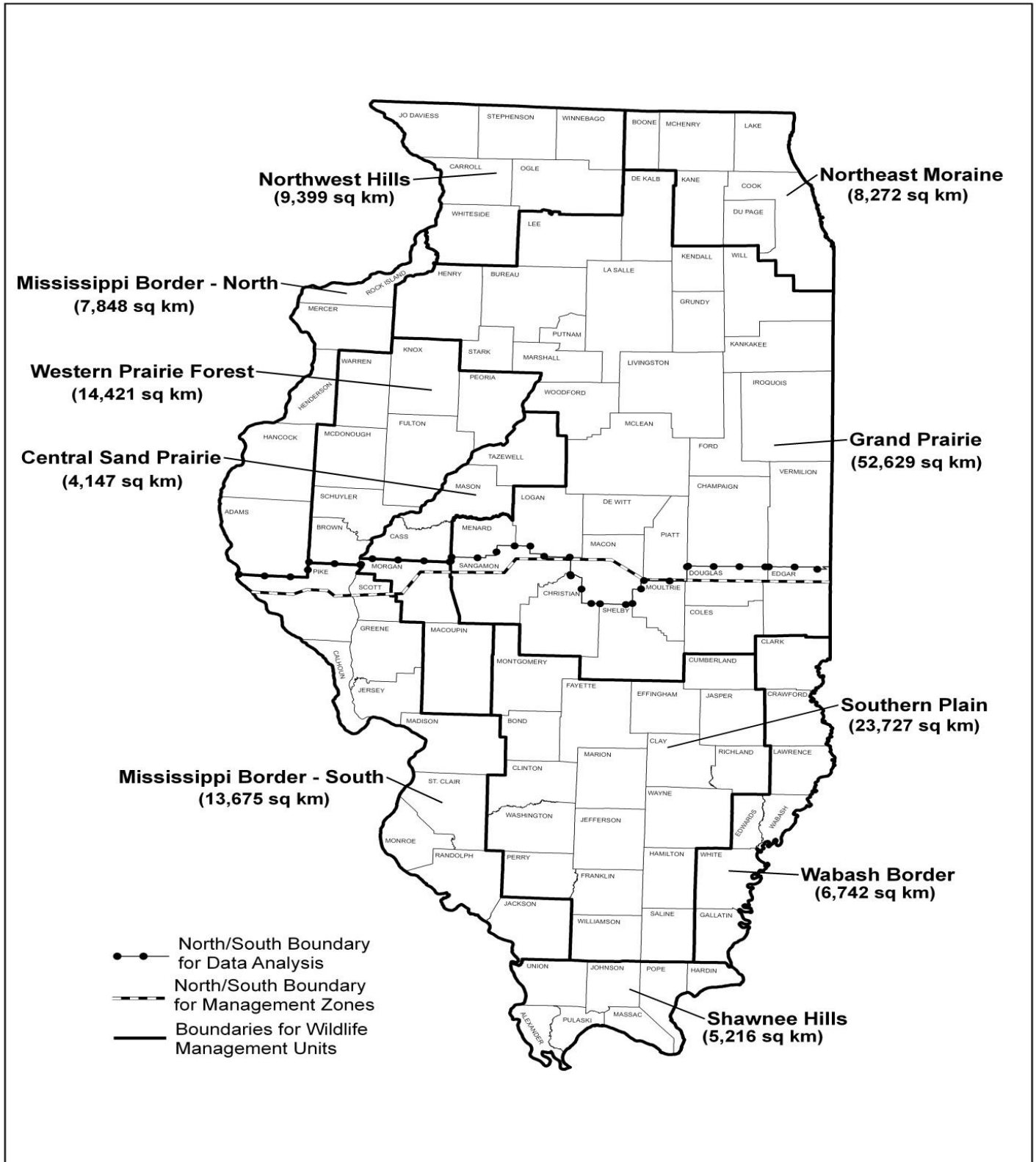


The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. This study is funded by the federal Wildlife Restoration Fund through your purchase of hunting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

Wildlife Management Units and Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois



Section 1. Effort and Harvest. Please answer the following questions about your furbearer trapping and hunting activities during the 2018-19 trapping season in Illinois.

1. Did you set any **traps** for furbearers in Illinois during the 2018-19 trapping season? (Please check **one**).

_____ Yes _____ No (Please go to **question 8**)

2. Complete each blank for all species **trapped** in Illinois during the 2018-19 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	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bobcat	_____	_____	_____	_____

If needed, please refer to the map on the opposite page to answer questions 3 & 4.

3. In which county did you set traps most often during the 2018-19 trapping season? (Please indicate)

_____ County

4. In which zone do you do most of your trapping? _____ North Zone _____ South Zone

5. How many days (or nights) did you set traps during the 2018-19 trapping season? _____ Days (or nights)

6. What was the average number of traps you set on your trapline during the 2018-19 trapping season?

_____ Traps

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

_____ My own private property _____ Public property (State, Federal, and other public lands)

_____ Private outfitter property _____ Private property owned by my family

_____ Private property **not** owned by me

8. What is your opinion of the opening and closing dates for the 2018-19 trapping season? Please circle one number for each date.

	Too early	About right	Too late	I am not sure
Opening date	1	2	3	4
Closing date	1	2	3	4

9. Did you **hunt furbearers** with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2018-19 season? Yes No

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

Raccoon Red Fox Gray Fox
 Coyote Skunk Opossum

9b. Did you hunt furbearers **with dogs** in Illinois during the 2018-19 season? Yes No?

10. How many of the following types of traps did you use on your trap line during the 2018-19 season?

Type of trap	Number owned	Number set
Conibear or body-gripping traps	_____	_____
Steel jaw leg-hold traps	_____	_____
Soft-catch or padded leg-hold traps	_____	_____
Cage-type live traps	_____	_____
Snares (Restricted to water use only)	_____	_____
Other type (Please identify): _____	_____	_____
Other type (Please identify): _____	_____	_____

11. Wisconsin and Missouri allow the use of modified land snares called cable restraint. Cable restraints use a variety of safety features to reduce the likelihood of lethal and non-target catches. How much do you disagree or agree that IDNR should allow trappers to use cable restraints on private lands?

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

12. Are **you** concerned that cable restraints would pose a threat to any non-target wildlife or domestic animals?

Yes No

12a. If yes, to which non-target species do you feel are threatened by cable restraints?

Deer Hunting dogs Pets
 Other (Identify) _____

13. Are you concerned that **hunters** would disapprove of trappers using cable restraints? Yes

No

14. Are you concerned that the **non-hunter/non-trapper** public would disapprove of trappers using cable restraints? Yes No

15. Did you incidentally catch any bobcats during 2018-19 season? Yes No (If No, skip to Section #2)
- 15a. If yes, how many bobcats did you catch? _____ caught
- 15b. How many did you release? _____ released
- 15c. For which species were you trapping? _____

Section 2. Bobcat Permit. Information you provide will help IDNR manage Illinois wildlife to ensure healthy, sustainable populations.

1. Are you satisfied with the current lottery system for bobcat permits? Yes No
2. Did you apply to the bobcat permit lottery for 2018-19 season? Yes No (If "No", skip to question #3)
- 2a. If yes, were you drawn for a permit? Yes No
3. Would you support changing the bobcat permit lottery to make receiving a permit easier for those who did not receive one in the previous year?
- Yes No (If "No," Please go to Section 3)
- 3a. If "Yes," would you support a lottery system that accomplishes this change (in #3, above) by preventing hunters and trappers from getting a permit two years in a row?
- Yes No

Section 3. Wildlife Sightings. The furbearer species addressed in the following questions are of special conservation concern to Illinois wildlife biologists. Information you provide will help IDNR manage Illinois wildlife to ensure healthy, sustainable populations.

1. Did you see any badger(s) in Illinois during the 2018-19 trapping season? (Please select one)
- Yes No (If "No," please go to question 2)
- 1a. If you did see badger(s) in Illinois during the 2018-19 trapping season, in which county(ies) were they seen?
- _____ County _____ County
2. Did you see badger sign in Illinois during the 2018-19 trapping season (Please select one)
- Yes No (If "No," please go to Section 4)
- 2a. If you did see badger sign in Illinois during the 2018-19 trapping season, in which county(ies) was it seen?
- _____ County _____ County

Section 4. Attitudes Toward Trapping. The following questions will tell us about your attitudes and opinions toward fur trapping in Illinois.

1. Why do you participate in trapping? (Please select all that apply)
- Financial incentive To provide a service to landowners
- To preserve my heritage To control wildlife populations
- Recreational purposes/lifestyle To spend time with friends and family
- Other (Please identify): _____

2. What is your **number one reason** for trapping in Illinois? (Please select one)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| _____ Financial incentive | _____ To provide a service to landowners |
| _____ To preserve my heritage | _____ To control wildlife populations |
| _____ Recreational purposes/lifestyle | _____ To spend time with friends and family |
| _____ Other (Please identify): _____ | |

3. Please rate the following reasons why you trap on a scale of “Not Important” to “Extremely Important”. Circle the number that matches your response.

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Trapping is a central part of my life	1	2	3	4	5
To learn about wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
To control predator populations	1	2	3	4	5
Trapping gives me an opportunity to be my own boss	1	2	3	4	5
Trapping is a fun activity	1	2	3	4	5
To share my experience with friends	1	2	3	4	5
To feel close to nature and the land	1	2	3	4	5
To control disease in wildlife populations	1	2	3	4	5
To remain part of the heritage of trapping	1	2	3	4	5
To share my skills and knowledge with others	1	2	3	4	5
For the independence	1	2	3	4	5
To share my experience with family	1	2	3	4	5
To observe wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
To maintain a rural American tradition	1	2	3	4	5
For the challenge	1	2	3	4	5
To remove nuisance animals	1	2	3	4	5
To provide a service to landowners	1	2	3	4	5
Trapping is my favorite activity	1	2	3	4	5
For the extra income it provides	1	2	3	4	5
To maintain a family tradition	1	2	3	4	5
To interact with others	1	2	3	4	5
To be self-reliant	1	2	3	4	5

Section 5. Background information. The following questions provide important information to help us understand more about the people who trap in Illinois. Please tell us about yourself by completing the following questions. All responses will be kept confidential.

1. Please give your age. _____ Years
2. Please give your gender _____ Male _____ Female
3. What is your county of residence? _____ County
4. How many years have you been trapping in Illinois? _____ Years
5. How old were you when you started trapping? _____ Years
6. Who introduced you to trapping?
_____ Father/Mother _____ Spouse _____ Grandparent _____ Sibling
_____ Child _____ Friend of mine _____ Family friend _____ Self-
taught
_____ Other (Please specify): _____
7. Have you ever mentored a new trapper? _____ Yes _____ No
8. Do you know of anyone who does not trap, but is interested in trapping?
_____ Yes What are their ages? _____ _____ _____
_____ No
9. Do you have internet access in your home? _____ Yes _____ No

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

Dear Illinois Trapper,

Your name was selected from the list of 2018 Illinois trapping license purchasers. We are asking you to provide information about your trapping activities during the 2018-19 trapping season in Illinois.

Even if you were not successful or did not trap in Illinois during the 2018-19 seasons, we ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the portions of the questionnaire that pertain to you.

The information you and other selected trappers furnish our biologists is vital for proper furbearer management and allows us to safeguard furbearer populations while maximizing trapping opportunities. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.** Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the postage paid envelope provided.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/>. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at <http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/>.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



Appendix C



Dear Illinois Trapper,

Recently you were mailed a questionnaire about your trapping activities in Illinois. We have not yet received your response. **If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. Your input is very important!**

Your name and address will be deleted from our mailing list when your questionnaire is received. Thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix D



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Illinois Trapper,

You recently received a survey questionnaire requesting information about your trapping activities during the 2018-19 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 2018-19 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,

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

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



18
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Appendix E

FURBEARER TRAPPING REGULATIONS							
SPECIES	Zone	DATES	LIMIT	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS			
Raccoon	Statewide	10 Nov 2018– 15 Feb 2019	None				
Opossum							
Striped Skunk							
Weasels							
Mink							
Muskrat							
Fox <i>(Red and Gray)</i>							
Coyote							
Badger				North		2 per person per season	
				South		1 per person per season	
Bobcat	See Bobcat Zone map		One by permit only	Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to harvest a bobcat. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of taking a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited.			
Beaver	Statewide	10 Nov 2018–31 Mar 2019	None				
River Otter	Statewide	10 Nov 2018–31 Mar 2019	5 per person per season	Must purchase Otter Registration Permit within 48 hours after each otter is trapped. Must affix official CITES tag to each pelt.			
Woodchuck <i>(Groundhog)</i>	Statewide	1 Jun–30 Sep 2018	None				

FURBEARER HUNTING			
SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Raccoon	10 Nov 2018–15 Feb 2019 Closed 16-18 Nov and 29 Nov– 2 Dec 2018 in counties with firearm deer hunting.	Open 24 hours and season begins 1/2 hour before sunrise on 10 Nov 2018 and closes 1/2 hour after sunset 15 Feb 2019. *see archery restrictions	During Archery Deer Season bow hunting hours for raccoon, opossum, fox, coyote and striped skunk will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
Opossum			Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to harvest a bobcat. Limit one bobcat per person per season. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of harvesting a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited.
Fox <i>(Red and Gray)</i>			
Bobcat			Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may harvest coyotes during firearm deer season by shotgun with slugs, muzzleloader or handgun from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
Coyote	Year round	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. No time restriction 10 Nov 2018–15 Mar 2019	
Striped Skunk	Closed 16-18 Nov and 29 Nov– 2 Dec 2018 in counties with firearm deer hunting.		

Appendix F

Wildlife Management Units and Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois

