



ILLINOIS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**PRODUCTION NOTE**

University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign Library  
Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.



**HumanDimensions**  
Research Program



**ILLINOIS  
NATURAL  
HISTORY  
SURVEY**



Federal Aid Project  
Number W-112-R-9  
Job Number 101.2  
Wildlife Restoration

**Joel Brunsvold**  
Director  
Illinois Department of Natural  
Resources

**Paul Vehlow**  
Federal Aid Coordinator

**John E. Buhnerkempe**  
Chief, Division of Wildlife  
Resources

# 1999-00 Illinois Trapper Survey Report



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

Report prepared by  
**Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.,**  
**Christopher B. Colligan,**  
**Linda K. Campbell, and**  
**Jessica Yeagle**



January 5, 2004

**Suggested Citation:**

**Miller, C.A., C.B. Colligan, L.K. Campbell and Jessica Yeagle . 2004. 1999-2000 Illinois Trapper Survey Report. Job Completion Report, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration W-112-R-9. Human Dimensions Program Report HR-00-04. Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL. 61pp.**

# 1999-2000 Illinois Trapper Survey Report

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT  
PROJECT NUMBER W-112-R-9  
STUDY 101  
JOB 101.2

JOB COMPLETION REPORT  
HUNTER HARVEST AND  
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Prepared by  
Craig A. Miller, Christopher B. Colligan, Linda K. Campbell, and Jessica Yeagle  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
Champaign, IL

January 05, 2004

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Joel Brunsvold, Director  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

John E. Buhnerkempe, Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

## LIST OF TABLES AND APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Table 1	Statewide Summary . . . . . 8
Table 2	Percent Change in Number of Successful Trappers and Harvest from 1998-1999 . . . . . 9
Table 3	Muskrat WMU <sup>a</sup> . . . . . 10
Table 4	Mink WMU . . . . . 11
Table 5	Raccoon WMU . . . . . 12
Table 6	Opossum WMU . . . . . 13
Table 7	Red Fox WMU . . . . . 14
Table 8	Gray Fox WMU . . . . . 15
Table 9	Beaver WMU . . . . . 16
Table 10	Skunk WMU . . . . . 17
Table 11	Weasel WMU . . . . . 18
Table 12	Coyote WMU . . . . . 19
Table 13	Badger WMU . . . . . 20
Table 14	Statewide Sample Sizes for Post-Season Mail Survey . . . . . 21
Table 15	Confidence Intervals . . . . . 22
Table 16	Distribution of Furbearer Harvest Among Successful Trappers . . . . . 23
Table 17	Muskrat FMZ <sup>b</sup> . . . . . 24
Table 18	Mink FMZ . . . . . 24
Table 19	Raccoon FMZ . . . . . 25
Table 20	Opossum FMZ . . . . . 25
Table 21	Red Fox FMZ . . . . . 26
Table 22	Gray Fox FMZ . . . . . 26
Table 23	Beaver FMZ . . . . . 27
Table 24	Skunk FMZ . . . . . 27
Table 25	Weasel FMZ . . . . . 28
Table 26	Coyote FMZ . . . . . 28
Table 27	Badger FMZ . . . . . 29
Table 28	Number of Pelts Sold by Successful Trappers, 1999-00 Season . . . . . 30
Table 29	Changes in Furbearer Populations . . . . . 31
Table 30	Summary of Fur Hunting Activities by Trappers in Illinois . . . . . 32
Table 31	Hunting Methods and Days Afield for Trappers Who Hunted Raccoon . . . . . 33
Table 32	Access Denied to Land Previously Hunted . . . . . 33
Table 33	Frequency of Active Trappers by County . . . . . 34
Table 34	Temporal Distribution of Trapping Activity in Illinois . . . . . 35
Table 35	Number of Active Trappers and Number of Days Engaged in Trapping Related Activities . . . . . 36
Table 36	Taken Trapper Education Course/Introduced Another Person Into Trapping . . . . . 37
Table 37	Attended Trapping Association Meetings or Conventions . . . . . 38
Table 38	Types and Number of Traps Set by Active Trappers in Illinois, 1999-00 Season . . . . . 39
Table 39	Awareness of Best Management Practices . . . . . 40
Table 40	Attitudes of Trappers Toward Best Management Practices . . . . . 40
Table 41	Attitudes of Trappers Regarding the Following Sources of Information on BMP/s . . . . . 41
Table 42	Attitudes of Active Trappers Toward Trapping in Illinois . . . . . 42
Table 43	Some Personal Characteristics of Trappers Who Participated in the 1999-00 Survey . . . . . 43
Figure 1	Wildlife Management Units and Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois . . . . . 44
Figure 2	Distribution of Days of Trapping . . . . . 45
Figure 3	Distribution of Number of Muskrats Trapped . . . . . 46
Figure 4	Distribution of the Number of Raccoons Trapped . . . . . 47
Figure 5	Illinois Counties in Which River Otters or Their Sign Were Observed . . . . . 48
Appendix A	Distribution of Surveyed Trappers by County . . . . . 49
Appendix B	Furbearer Trapping Seasons . . . . . 50
Appendix C	Name/Address Card Issued to Licensed Vendors for Conducting the 1999-00 Survey . . . . . 51
Appendix D	Information/Activity Record Issued to Trappers for Conducting the 1999-00 Survey . . . . . 52
Appendix E	Cover Letter that Accompanied the First Mailing of the Questionnaire . . . . . 53
Appendix F	Questionnaire Used for Conducting the 1999-00 Illinois Trapper Survey . . . . . 54

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

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

## **Objective**

To survey furbearer (12 species of mammals) trappers annually to determine their activities, harvests, characteristics, attitudes, and opinions in Illinois.

## **Abstract**

A stratified random sample of 900 persons who purchased a 1999-2000 resident Illinois trapping license was surveyed after the furbearer trapping season. The U.S. Postal Service successfully reached 887 of the licensees, 688 (78%) of whom returned usable questionnaires. Trapping license sales decreased 36.9% from 3,717 licensed trappers during 1998-1999 to 2,345 trappers during 1999-2000. Trappers had traps set for an average of 26.4 days during the 1999-2000 season, and they harvested an estimated 118,326 furbearers (down 37% from the 188,202 harvested in 1998-1999). Data are provided for temporal distribution of trapping activities, types of traps used, participation in trapper education programs, sources of furbearer and trapping information, and fur hunting by trappers. The opinions of trappers as to changes in furbearer populations are also presented, as is a profile of personal characteristics of trappers.

## **Methods**

A stratified random sample of 900 resident Illinois trappers was selected from sales of 1999 trapper licenses. Trappers were stratified by county of residence to form proportionate samples by wildlife management units and furbearer management zones (Figure 1). Each trapper was mailed an eight-page questionnaire in late April 2000. Nonrespondents were mailed a reminder postcard 14 days after the survey questionnaire. Remaining nonrespondents were mailed a second questionnaire fourteen days after the

postcard reminder. Trappers not responding to the previous mailings were mailed a second postcard reminder 14 days following the second questionnaire. The initial sample was reduced to 887 due to incorrect addresses, deceased participants, or trappers who moved and left no forwarding address.

## Results

A total of 688 (78%) trappers responded to the survey. Using procedures adopted by Anderson and Campbell (1992), we calculated statewide participation and harvest for all furbearer species in Illinois (Tables 1-28).

### Participation

Illinois trappers had traps set for an average of 26.42 days or nights (Figure 2). Participation during the 1999-2000 season was highest among raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) trappers, estimated at 1,435 trappers statewide (Table 1). Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*) trapping was second in participation with 1,080 trappers, followed by beaver (*Castor canadensis*) with 886 trappers. Lowest participation was observed among gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) with 48 trappers, badger (*Taxidea taxus*) with 24 trappers, and weasel (*Mustela sp.*) with 17 trappers. When asked to express their opinions of changes in furbearer populations from 1998-1999 to 1999-2000, pluralities thought coyote and raccoon numbers were up. It was reported that muskrat populations were thought to be lower, beaver numbers unchanged, and red fox numbers unknown (Table 29).



## **Harvest**

Raccoons were the species harvested most in Illinois during the 1999-2000 season; harvest was estimated at 51,971 animals and represents a 48.7% decrease from the estimated 1998-1999 harvest of 101,224 animals. Muskrats were the second-most harvested species (33,447), followed by opossums (12,734), beaver (9,704), and coyotes (5,051). The number of muskrats harvested averaged 31.0 per trapper and ranged from 1-400 (Figure 3). Similarly, the number of raccoons harvested averaged 36.2 per trapper and ranged from 1-678 (Figure 4).

## **Changes in Participation and Harvest**

The number of Illinois residents participating in trapping declined 36.9% from 3,717 licensed trappers during 1998-1999 to 2,345 trappers during 1999-2000. The number of trappers declined for all species categories except coyotes. Average harvest per trapper increased for beaver (11.7%) and red fox (4.9%). An especially large increase in harvest was observed for coyotes (92.1%), even though trappers increased by < 1% (Table 2).

## **Fur Hunting by Trappers**

A total of 186 trappers (27% of licensees sampled) reported hunting furbearers with gun and/or dogs in 1999-2000 (Table 30). This equates to a statewide total of 634 hunting trappers, and their total harvest was estimated to be 14,121 pelts or an average of 22 pelts per hunter. More trappers hunted raccoon than any other species. Coyote ranked second in popularity. The hunting method of choice for taking raccoons involved the use of

“dogs.” This method was used by 60.8% of trappers who hunted, and they used it for an average 19.84 days. Using a hand held light on foot (without dogs or predator calls) ranked second (40.8%) among trapping hunters (Table 31). Thirty-five percent of the trapping hunters have been denied access to hunt raccoons on land they previously hunted (Table 32).

## **Trapper Activity**

### *Retention and Recruitment*

The majority of trappers (76%) trapped on both week days and weekends, although 19% trapped only on weekends. Most trappers (75%) did not trap throughout the entire season. The most frequent reasons for not trapping the entire season were “Too busy” (42%) and “Low fur prices” (23%) (Table 34). Approximately half (51%) of trappers reported they spent less time trapping during the 1999-2000 season than the past year, whereas 31% spent the same amount of time as in the past (Table 35). Viewed in light of the decrease in trappers from 1998 license year to 1999, the response by half of trappers stating they trapped less indicates potential for further loss of trappers during following years. A majority of trappers (58%) introduced someone to trapping in the past 5 years, most frequently friends (48%). A majority (79%) of those introduced to trapping were youths (Table 36).

### *Trapper Education Courses, Meetings, and Conventions*

Most trappers (79%) have never taken a trapper education course. Of those trappers who took a course, most (53%) did so out of their own interest. Slightly more

than one-third (36%) were required to take a trapper education course (Table 36). Less than one-third of trappers in Illinois attended trapping meetings or conventions during the 12 months prior to the survey. Of those trappers who attended meetings or conventions, 52% attended one and 28% attended 2 (Table 37).

*Observation of River Otters.* Participating trappers were asked whether they saw river otter or otter sign in Illinois during the 1999-2000 season. Otter or otter sign was reported for 51 counties which, except for central and east-central Illinois, occurred throughout the state (Fig. 5).

*Types of Traps.* The most common types of traps used by Illinois trappers in 1999-2000 were the Conibear or killer-type traps and steel jaw leg-hold traps. The Conibear was used by 78% of the trappers, and it represented 45% of all traps set (Table 38). Steel jaw leg-hold traps were used by 73% of the trappers and represented 47% of all traps set in 1999-2000. Soft-catch or padded leg-hold traps represented only 1% of the traps set. Although cage-type live traps were used by 39% of the trappers, these traps accounted for only 4% of all traps.

#### *Best Management Practices*

Approximately one-third of trappers (44%) were aware of Best Management Practices (BMP's) (Table 39). Of trappers who were aware of BMP's, 48% stated they felt BMP's were a good idea. Many trappers (41%) were unsure if BMP's would increase public acceptance of trapping, and most (56%) believed BMP's would lead to regulations

banning traps they used (Table 40). Only 10% felt BMP's would not affect trapping in Illinois. Most trappers (53%) were unsure of the effect BMP's would have in allowing trapping where it was prohibited. Trappers were almost evenly split on the use of BMP's in improving animal welfare (32% disagreed, 39% unsure, 29% agreed).

Trappers (64%) rated trapper conventions as the single most important sources of information on BMP's. Trappers also rated the Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations and other trappers as very important sources of information for BMP's (57% for each source) (Table 41). Other very important sources included Conservation Police Officers (54%), Association Newsletters (50%), and Magazines (50%). The Internet and fur buyers were rated as not important more frequently than other sources of information (36% and 24%, respectively).

### **Attitudes Toward Trapping**

The attitudes of Illinois trappers toward wildlife, land use, and related economics are summarized in Table 42.

### **General Information**

During the 1999-2000 season, Illinois trappers were almost all male (99%), averaged 45 years of age, and had trapped in Illinois for 23 years (Table 43). Most trappers reported that they were (62%) the only member of the family who trapped. Seventy-three percent of trappers reported setting and checking traps usually alone, 19% with a family member, and 8% with a friend. Their household income was most likely

between \$15,000 and \$44,999. One-third (33%) belong to a trapper association or organization. The distribution of trappers surveyed is provided by county in Appendix A.

### **References**

Anderson, W.L., and L.k. Campbell. 1992. Fur hunter/trapper survey, 1990-91. Ill. Dep. Conserv., Fed. Aid in Wildl. restoration Projects W-99-R-3 and W-112-R-1, Study 1, Job 2, Job Completion Rep. 71pp.

Table 1. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of resident trappers in Illinois, 1999-00 (n=688).

Species	Estimated Number of Trappers	Percent of Licensed Trappers	Average Season Catch	Estimated		Estimated		Estimated	
				Total Harvest	Percent Sold	Total Harvest	Percent Sold	Total Sold	
Muskrat	1,080	46.08	30.96	33,447	92.16	30,826			
Mink	733	31.25	4.14	3,033	93.93	2,849			
Raccoon	1,435	61.19	36.22	51,971	89.87	46,709			
Opossum	774	32.99	16.46	12,734	39.86	5,075			
Red fox	283	12.06	3.87	1,094	81.62	893			
Gray fox	48	2.03	2.07	99	65.52	65			
Beaver	886	37.79	10.95	9,704	83.60	8,112			
Skunk	300	12.79	3.80	1,138	26.35	300			
Weasel	17	0.73	1.60	27	87.50	24			
Coyote	542	23.11	9.32	5,051	69.23	3,497			
Badger	24	1.02	1.14	27	62.50	17			

Table 2. Change in number of successful trappers and harvest by species in Illinois.  
Comparisons are between 1998 and 1999 license years.

Species	Successful Trappers		% Change	Total Harvest		% Change
	1998	1999		1998	1999	
Muskrat	1,853	1,080	-41.7	44,199	33,447	-24.3
Mink	1,187	733	-38.2	4,333	3,033	-30.0
Raccoon	2,846	1,435	-49.6	101,224	51,971	-48.7
Opossum	1,892	774	-59.1	23,966	12,734	-46.9
Red Fox	444	283	-36.3	1,043	1,094	4.9
Gray Fox	94	48	-48.9	122	99	-18.9
Beaver	1,171	886	-24.3	8,688	9,704	11.7
Skunk	533	300	-43.7	1,903	1,138	-40.2
Weasel	22	17	-22.7	33	27	-18.2
Coyote	538	542	0.7	2,630	5,051	92.1
Badger	61	24	-60.7	61	27	-55.7

Table 3. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=317).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers /100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated	
					Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	167	15.46	1.78	50.27	8,395	89.32
Northeast Moraine	58	5.36	0.70	42.94	2,488	30.08
Mississippi Border-North	65	5.99	0.83	20.89	1,353	17.24
Mississippi Border-South	82	7.57	0.60	30.46	2,492	18.22
Western Prairie/Forest	136	12.62	0.95	25.75	3,511	24.34
Central Sand Prairie	27	2.52	0.66	42.50	1,159	27.94
Grand Prairie	256	23.66	0.49	29.84	7,628	14.49
Southern Plain	218	20.19	0.92	22.81	4,976	20.97
Wabash Border	51	4.73	0.76	23.40	1,196	17.74
Shawnee Hills	10	0.95	0.20	11.67	119	2.29
Unknown	10	0.95		12.67	130	
Statewide	1,080	100.00	0.74	30.96	33,447	22.90



Table 4. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n= 215).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers /100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	92	12.56	0.98	3.26	300	3.19
Northeast Moraine	24	3.26	0.29	8.86	211	2.55
Mississippi Border-North	37	5.12	0.48	4.55	170	2.17
Mississippi Border-South	68	9.30	0.50	2.65	181	1.32
Western Prairie/Forest	92	12.56	0.64	4.52	416	2.88
Central Sand Prairie	20	2.79	0.49	4.00	82	1.97
Grand Prairie	187	25.58	0.36	4.18	784	1.49
Southern Plain	157	21.40	0.66	3.67	576	2.43
Wabash Border	31	4.19	0.45	6.89	211	3.13
Shawnee Hills	14	1.86	0.26	5.25	72	1.37
Unknown	10	1.40		3.00	31	
Statewide	733	100.00	0.50	4.14	3,033	2.08

Table 5. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=421).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers /100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	201	14.01	2.14	46.17	9,284	98.78
Northeast Moraine	85	5.94	1.03	34.84	2,969	35.89
Mississippi Border-North	95	6.65	1.22	49.36	4,710	60.02
Mississippi Border-South	130	9.03	0.95	22.89	2,965	21.68
Western Prairie/Forest	177	12.35	1.23	38.40	6,807	47.20
Central Sand Prairie	55	3.80	1.32	18.81	1,026	24.74
Grand Prairie	372	25.89	0.71	36.31	13,490	25.63
Southern Plain	215	14.96	0.90	35.43	7,608	32.06
Wabash Border	55	3.80	0.81	29.31	1,599	23.71
Shawnee Hills	27	1.90	0.52	40.63	1,108	21.24
Unknown	24	1.66		17.00	406	
Statewide	1,435	100.00	0.98	36.22	51,971	35.58

Table 6. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=227).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers /100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	102	13.22	1.09	16.27	1,663	17.70
Northeast Moraine	44	5.73	0.54	16.38	726	8.78
Mississippi Border-North	48	6.17	0.61	15.57	743	9.47
Mississippi Border-South	82	10.57	0.60	19.00	1,554	11.37
Western Prairie/Forest	95	12.33	0.66	23.18	2,212	15.34
Central Sand Prairie	27	3.52	0.66	25.13	685	16.52
Grand Prairie	181	23.35	0.34	15.23	2,751	5.23
Southern Plain	123	15.86	0.52	12.25	1,503	6.33
Wabash Border	41	5.29	0.61	16.75	685	10.16
Shawnee Hills	20	2.64	0.39	8.17	167	3.20
Unknown	10	1.32		4.33	44	
Statewide	774	100.00	0.53	16.46	12,734	8.72

Table 7. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=83).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers /100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated	
					Total Trapper Harvest	Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	34	12.05	0.36	8.80	300	3.19
Northeast Moraine	3	1.20	0.04	3.00	10	0.12
Mississippi Border-North	14	4.82	0.17	4.00	55	0.69
Mississippi Border-South	41	14.46	0.30	2.92	119	0.87
Western Prairie/Forest	37	13.25	0.26	1.64	61	0.43
Central Sand Prairie	14	4.82	0.33	8.50	116	2.79
Grand Prairie	61	21.69	0.12	2.78	170	0.32
Southern Plain	61	21.69	0.26	3.56	218	0.92
Wabash Border	14	4.82	0.20	3.00	41	0.61
Shawnee Hills	3	1.20	0.07	1.00	3	0.07
Unknown	0	0.00	-	-	-	-
Statewide	283	100.00	0.19	3.87	1,094	0.75

Table 8. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=14).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers /100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Northeast Moraine	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Mississippi Border-North	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Mississippi Border-South	14	28.57	0.10	1.75	24	0.17
Western Prairie/Forest	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Central Sand Prairie	3	7.14	0.08	7.00	24	0.58
Grand Prairie	7	14.29	0.01	1.00	7	0.01
Southern Plain	10	21.43	0.04	1.67	17	0.07
Wabash Border	7	14.29	0.10	3.00	20	0.30
Shawnee Hills	3	7.14	0.07	1.00	3	0.07
Unknown	3	7.14		1.00	3	
Statewide	48	100.00	0.03	2.07	99	0.07

Table 9. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=260).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers /100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	78	8.85	0.83	7.04	552	5.87
Northeast Moraine	65	7.31	0.78	8.74	566	6.84
Mississippi Border-North	55	6.15	0.69	13.00	709	9.03
Mississippi Border-South	65	7.31	0.47	13.95	903	6.60
Western Prairie/Forest	119	13.46	0.83	13.06	1,558	10.80
Central Sand Prairie	27	3.08	0.66	22.50	614	14.79
Grand Prairie	283	31.92	0.54	9.92	2,805	5.33
Southern Plain	143	16.15	0.60	8.76	1,254	5.29
Wabash Border	27	3.08	0.40	17.50	477	7.08
Shawnee Hills	14	1.54	0.26	17.00	232	4.44
Unknown	10	1.15		3.33	34	
Statewide	886	100.00	0.61	10.95	9,704	6.64

Table 10. Summary of skunk trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=88).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers /100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	48	15.91	0.51	2.36	112	1.20
Northeast Moraine	20	6.82	0.25	7.50	153	1.85
Mississippi Border-North	31	10.23	0.39	4.67	143	1.82
Mississippi Border-South	20	6.82	0.15	2.00	41	0.30
Western Prairie/Forest	44	14.77	0.31	3.00	133	0.92
Central Sand Prairie	14	4.55	0.33	3.00	41	0.99
Grand Prairie	75	25.00	0.14	4.68	351	0.67
Southern Plain	31	10.23	0.13	3.11	95	0.40
Wabash Border	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
Shawnee Hills	14	4.55	0.26	4.75	65	1.24
Unknown	3	1.14		1.00	3	-
Statewide	300	100.00	0.21	3.80	1,138	0.78

Table 11. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=5).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers /100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	3	20.00	0.04	1.00	3	0.04
Northeast Moraine	3	20.00	0.04	2.00	7	0.08
Mississippi Border-North	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	-
Mississippi Border-South	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	-
Western Prairie/Forest	3	20.00	0.02	3.00	10	0.07
Central Sand Prairie	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	-
Grand Prairie	3	20.00	0.01	1.00	3	0.01
Southern Plain	3	20.00	0.01	1.00	3	0.01
Wabash Border	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	-
Shawnee Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	-
Unknown	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	-
Statewide	17	100.00	0.01	1.60	27	0.02



Table 12. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=159).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers /100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	48	8.81	0.51	10.29	491	5.22
Northeast Moraine	17	3.14	0.21	16.40	279	3.38
Mississippi Border-North	37	6.92	0.48	17.82	668	8.51
Mississippi Border-South	51	9.43	0.37	12.80	654	4.79
Western Prairie/Forest	95	17.61	0.66	10.50	1,002	6.95
Central Sand Prairie	17	3.14	0.41	7.60	130	3.12
Grand Prairie	133	24.53	0.25	4.41	586	1.11
Southern Plain	95	17.61	0.40	10.00	954	4.02
Wabash Border	27	5.03	0.40	5.00	136	2.02
Shawnee Hills	17	3.14	0.33	6.20	106	2.03
Unknown	3	0.63	0.00	13.00	44	0.00
Statewide	542	100.00	0.37	9.32	5,051	3.46

Table 13. Summary of badger trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=7).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers /100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	17	71.43	0.18	1.20	20	0.22
Northeast Moraine	0	0.00	0.00	-	0	-
Mississippi Border-North	0	0.00	0.00	-	0	-
Mississippi Border-South	0	0.00	0.00	-	0	-
Western Prairie/Forest	0	0.00	0.00	-	0	-
Central Sand Prairie	0	0.00	0.00	-	0	-
Grand Prairie	3	14.29	0.01	1.00	3	0.01
Southern Plain	3	14.29	0.01	1.00	3	0.01
Wabash Border	0	0.00	0.00	-	0	-
Shawnee Hills	0	0.00	0.00	-	0	-
Unknown	0	0.00	0.00	-	0	-
Statewide	24	100.00	0.02	1.14	27	0.02

Table 14. Statewide sample sizes for post-season mail survey of resident fur trappers in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=688).

Species	Number of Successful Trappers In Sample	Percent Successful Trappers	Season Harvest by Successful Trappers in Sample
Muskrat	317	46.08	9,813
Mink	215	31.25	890
Raccoon	421	61.19	15,248
Opossum	227	32.99	3,736
Red fox	83	12.06	321
Gray fox	14	2.03	29
Beaver	260	37.79	2,847
Striped skunk	88	12.79	334
Weasel	5	0.73	8
Coyote	159	23.11	1,482
Badger	7	1.02	8

Table 15. Confidence intervals (95%) for estimated number of trappers, average season harvest, and total trapper harvest by species in Illinois, 1999-00 (n=688).

Species	Total Estimated Trappers		Estimated Average Season Bag		Total Estimated Harvest	
Muskrat	1,080	± 89	30.96	± 5.52	33,447	± 7,755
Mink	733	± 83	4.14	± 0.73	3,033	± 887
Raccoon	1,435	± 87	36.22	± 5.76	51,971	± 8,843
Opossum	774	± 84	16.46	± 3.99	12,734	± 4,953
Red fox	283	± 58	3.87	± 1.85	1,094	± 1,483
Gray fox	48	± 25	2.07	± 0.97	99	± 331
Beaver	886	± 87	10.95	± 1.75	9,704	± 2,292
Skunk	300	± 60	3.80	± 0.83	1,138	± 680
Weasel	17	± 15	1.60	± 0.78	27	± 159
Coyote	542	± 75	9.32	± 2.71	5,051	± 2,910
Badger	24	± 18	1.14	± 0.28	27	± 68

Table 16. Distribution of furbearer harvest among effective trappers in Illinois, 1999-00 season. Sample sizes are listed below each species.

Total Season Catch	Percent of Effective Trappers										
	Muskrat 317	Mink 215	Raccoon 421	Opossum 227	Red fox 83	Gray fox 14	Beaver 260	Striped Skunk 88	Weasel 5	Coyote 159	Badger 7
1	4.4	29.8	5.2	7.5	39.8	64.3	14.6	25.0	60.0	27.0	85.7
2	6.9	24.2	3.1	11.0	22.9	7.1	11.2	26.1	20.0	12.6	14.3
3	4.4	11.6	3.6	7.5	14.5	14.3	8.1	13.6	20.0	12.6	0.0
4	5.4	7.0	2.9	7.9	6.0	0.0	6.2	5.7	0.0	5.7	0.0
5	5.4	6.0	4.0	8.4	6.0	7.1	5.8	6.8	0.0	8.8	0.0
6	3.5	5.1	5.2	6.6	3.6	0.0	7.7	9.1	0.0	3.8	0.0
7	1.6	3.3	2.6	1.8	1.2	7.1	3.8	3.4	0.0	1.9	0.0
8	2.2	2.3	2.9	3.1	0.0	0.0	4.2	2.3	0.0	2.5	0.0
9	0.9	1.4	1.4	3.1	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0
10	6.9	1.4	5.0	7.5	1.2	0.0	3.8	3.4	0.0	3.1	0.0
11	1.3	0.9	2.4	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.1	0.0	0.6	0.0
12	4.7	2.3	4.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	4.2	2.3	0.0	3.1	0.0
13	1.6	0	1.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0
14	0.9	0	1.7	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0
15	2.8	1.9	2.1	5.7	1.2	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0
16-20	10.4	1.4	6.4	6.2	1.2	0.0	6.2	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0
21-25	4.1	0	7.4	4.8	0.0	0.0	5.5	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0
>25	32.5	1.4	38.7	14.1	2.4	0.0	9.2	1.1	0.0	8.2	0.0

Table 17. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=317).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)		Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
				Total Trapper Harvest	(%)	
North Zone	658 60.9	0.80	34.92 ± 8.35	22,973	69.0	28.07
South Zone	412 38.2	0.64	25.08 ± 5.46	10,344	31.0	16.10
Unknown	10 0.9	..	..	130	..	..
Statewide	1,080 100.0	0.74	30.96 ± 5.52	33,447	..	22.90

Table 18. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=215).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)		Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
				Total Trapper Harvest	(%)	
North Zone	429 58.6	0.52	4.32 ± 0.96	1,854	61.7	2.27
South Zone	293 40.0	0.46	3.92 ± 1.16	1,149	38.3	1.79
Unknown	10 1.4	..	..	31	..	..
Statewide	733 100.0	0.50	4.14 ± 0.73	3,033	..	2.08

Table 19. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=421).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North Zone	910 63.4	1.11	40.21 ± 8.34	36,596 71.0	44.72
South Zone	501 34.9	0.78	29.88 ± 6.31	14,970 29.0	23.30
Unknown	24 1.7	..	..	406	..
Statewide	1,435 100.0	0.98	36.22 ± 5.76	51,971	35.58

Table 20. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=227).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North Zone	464 59.9	0.57	17.90 ± 5.48	8,299 65.4	10.14
South Zone	300 38.8	0.47	14.64 ± 5.84	4,390 34.6	6.83
Unknown	10 1.3	..	..	44	..
Statewide	774 100.0	0.53	16.46 ± 3.99	12,734	8.72

Table 21. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=83).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North Zone	160 56.6	0.20	4.30 ± 3.17	688 62.9	0.84
South Zone	123 43.4	0.19	3.31 ± 1.10	406 37.1	0.63
Unknown	0 0.0	..	..	-	..
Statewide	283 100.0	0.19	3.87 ± 1.85	1,094	0.75

Table 22. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=14).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North Zone	7 14.3	0.01	4.00 ± 5.88	27 28.6	0.03
South Zone	37 78.6	0.06	1.82 ± 0.79	68 71.4	0.11
Unknown	3 7.1	..	..	3	..
Statewide	48 100.0	0.03	2.07 ± 0.97	99	0.07



Table 23. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=260).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North Zone	593 66.9	0.72	11.17 ± 2.26	6,623 68.5	8.09
South Zone	283 31.9	0.44	10.77 ± 2.77	3,047 31.5	4.74
Unknown	10 1.2	..	..	34	..
Statewide	886 100.0	0.61	10.95 ± 1.75	9,704	6.64

Table 24. Summary of skunk trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=88).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North Zone	225 75.0	0.27	4.11 ± 1.06	924 81.4	1.13
South Zone	72 23.9	0.11	2.95 ± 0.80	211 18.6	0.33
Unknown	3 1.1	..	..	3	..
Statewide	300 100.0	0.21	3.80 ± 0.83	1,138	0.78

Table 25. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=5).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North Zone	14 80.0	0.02	1.75 ± 0.94	24 87.5	0.03
South Zone	3 20.0	0.01	1.00 ± 0.00	3 12.5	0.01
Unknown	0 0.0	..	..	0	..
Statewide	17 100.0	0.01	1.60 ± 0.78	27	0.02

Table 26. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=159).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North Zone	320 59.1	0.39	9.40 ± 3.64	3,013 60.2	3.68
South Zone	218 40.3	0.22	9.14 ± 4.21	1,994 39.8	3.10
Unknown	3 0.6	..	..	44	..
Statewide	542 100.0	0.37	9.32 ± 2.73	5,051	3.46

Table 27. Summary of badger trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=7).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North Zone	20 85.71	0.02	1.17 ± 0.33	24 87.5	0.03
South Zone	4 14.29	0.01	1.00 ± 7.84	3 12.5	0.01
Unknown	0 0.00	..	..	0	..
Statewide	24 100.00	0.02	1.14 ± 1.94	27	0.02

Table 28. The number of pelts sold by successful trappers (i.e., caught  $\geq 1$  animal) for 11 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1999-2000 season (n=533).

Species	Total Number of Pelts Sold	Pelts Sold in Illinois		Pelts Sold Outside Illinois	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Muskrat	30,825	24,046	78.01	6,779	21.99
Mink	2,849	1,823	63.99	1,026	36.01
Raccoon	46,709	34,507	73.88	12,202	26.12
Opossum	5,075	3,763	74.15	1,312	25.85
Red fox	893	579	64.84	314	35.16
Gray fox	65	24	36.92	41	63.08
Beaver	8,112	4,714	58.11	3,398	41.89
Striped skunk	300	99	33.00	201	67.00
Weasel	23	20	86.96	3	13.04
Coyote	3,497	2,451	70.09	1,046	29.91
Badger	17	17	100.00	-	0.00
Total	98,365	72,043	73.24	26,322	26.76

Table 29. Assessments by fur trappers<sup>a</sup> as to changes in furbearer populations from 1998-99 season to 1999-00 season.

Species		Percentage of Active Trappers			
		Higher	Unchanged	Lower	Don't Know
Muskrat	(n=475)	14.3	32.6	35.6	17.5
Raccoon	(n=507)	38.6	35.9	16.8	8.7
Red fox	(n=416)	16.8	27.2	19.7	36.3
Beaver	(n=442)	30.5	36.0	10.2	23.3
Coyote	(n=438)	47.3	26.0	5.9	20.8

<sup>a</sup> Active trappers.

Table 30. Summary of fur hunting activities by trappers<sup>a</sup> in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=688).

Species	Number of Trappers In Sample Hunting Species	Number of Furbearers Harvested by Hunting	Average Number Harvested by Hunting	Estimated Percent of all Trappers Hunting Species	Estimated Total Harvest by all Trappers Hunting Species
Raccoon	125	3,390	27.12	18.17	11,554
Opossum	24	127	5.29	3.49	433
Red fox	7	12	1.71	1.01	41
Gray fox	3	7	2.33	0.44	24
Striped skunk	6	44	7.33	0.87	150
Coyote	80	563	7.04	11.63	1,919
All species	186 <sup>b,c</sup>	4,143	22.27	27.03	14,121

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

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

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

Table 31. Hunting methods and days afield for trappers who hunted raccoon in Illinois during the 1999-2000 season (n= 125).

Hunting Method	Percent Using Method <sup>a</sup>	Range	Mean	Total Days
Predator Call	17.6%	2-28	7.77	171
Dogs	60.8%	1-82	19.84	1,508
Using a hand held light on foot (without dogs or predator calls)	40.8%	1-70	10.06	513

<sup>a</sup>Total percentage is greater than 100% because some trappers used more than one hunting method.

Table 32. Have you been denied access to hunt raccoons on land you previously hunted?

	Number of Respondents	Percent Response
Yes	34	35%
No	64	65%

If "Yes," what county:

<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>
Adams	1	Knox	1
Bureau	1	LaSalle	2
Carroll	2	Lee	1
Clay	1	McDonough	1
De Kalb	1	Ogle	1
Edgar	1	Pike	3
Effingham	2	Pulaski	1
Fulton	1	Randolph	1
Iroquois	2	Richland	1
Jasper	2	Stephenson	1
Jo Daviess	4	Warren	1
Kankakee	1	Whiteside	1

Table 33. Frequency of active trappers by county in Illinois, 1999-00 season.

County Trapped	Number of Trappers Per County
Jo Daviess	16
Knox, Whiteside	15
Fulton, LaSalle	14
Stephenson	13
Randolph, Rock Island	11
Bureau, Henderson, Henry, McHenry, St. Clair	10
Clinton, Madison	9
Carroll, Kane, Lee, Morgan, Ogle, Peoria, Perry, Pike, Wayne	8
Adams, Cumberland, Fayette, Greene, Kankakee, Livingston, McDonough, Mason, Mercer, Warren, Will	7
Cass, Crawford, De Kalb, Lawrence, Logan, Montgomery, Tazewell	6
Boone, Clay, Edwards, Marion, Richland, Vermillion	5
Brown, Champaign, Coles, DeWitt, Effingham, Iroquois, Kendall, Lake, Macoupin, Sangamon, Shelby, Winnebago	4
Edgar, Franklin, Grundy, Hancock, Jasper, Jefferson, Jersey, McLean, Macon, Massac, Schuyler, Washington, Williamson, Woodford	3
Christian, Clark, Cook, Du Page, Hamilton, Jackson, Marshall, Menard, Monroe, Piatt, Saline, Scott, Union, White	2
Alexander, Calhoun, Gallatin, Moultrie, Pope, Pulaski, Putnam, Stark, Wabash	1
Unknown	8



Table 34. Temporal distribution of trapping activity by active trappers in Illinois, 1999-00 season.

---

Responses to the following questions,

"When do you do most of your trapping?"

	<u>Percent of Trappers</u> (n=527)
Weekends	19%
Weekdays	5
Both	76

"Did you trap throughout the entire season?"

	<u>Percent of Trappers</u> (n=531)
Yes	25%
No	75

Reasons given for not trapping the entire season.

	<u>Percent of Trappers</u> (n=365)
Too busy	42%
Low fur prices	23
Too warm	7
Bad weather	7
Not enough animals	6
Health reasons	5
Late start	4
Nuisance trapped only	3
Trapped all I wanted	2
Lost interest/traps stolen	0.8
Didn't know when season started	0.2

---

Table 35. Number of active trappers and the number of days they were engaged in trapping related activities in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=533).

Activity	Number of Trappers	Number of Days
Scouting for furbearer sign	426	5,881
Maintaining trapping equipment	437	5,387
Learning or practicing new trapping techniques	218	7,050

Responses to the following questions:

How does the amount of time you spent trapping this past season compare with the previous year?

	<u>Percent of Trappers</u> (n=522)
More	18%
Same	31
Less	51

When you trap (setting and checking traps) do you usually do so:

	<u>Percent of Trappers</u> (n=509)
By yourself	73%
With a friend	8
With a family member	19

Table 36. Percentage of active trappers who have taken a trapper education course and who have introduced another person into trapping, (Illinois, 1999-00 season).

---

Responses to the following questions:

Have you ever taken a formal trapper's education course?

	<u>Percent of Trappers</u> (n=524)
Yes	21%
No	79%

If "Yes," why?

	(n=109)
It was required	36%
I wanted to take it	53
Other reasons <sup>a</sup>	11

Have you introduced another person into trapping in the past 5 years?

	<u>Percent Response</u> (n=526)
Yes	58%
No	42%

If "Yes," was this person a:

	<u>Percent Response</u> (n=364)
Friend	48%
Member of your immediate family	39
Member of your extended family	13

Was this person a youth?

	<u>Percent Response</u> (n=300)
Yes	78%
No	22%

---

<sup>a</sup>Other reasons included: It was offered at a convention, to learn and gain personal knowledge, to educate others, to become a trapper education instructor.

Table 37. Percentage of active trappers who attended trapping association meetings or conventions during the past 12 months in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=529).

---

Did you attend trapping meetings or conventions?

	<u>Percentage of Trappers</u>
Yes	31%
No	69

The number of trapper association meetings and conventions attended per trapper during the 1999-00 season.

<u>Percentage of Trappers</u>	<u>Number of Meetings Attended</u>
52%	1
28	2
9	3
5	4
3	5
2	6
1	8

---

Table 38. Types and numbers of traps set by active trappers in Illinois, 1999-00 season.

Type of Trap	Trappers		Traps	
	Number	Percentage (n=533)	Mean Per Owner	Percentage of Total
Conibear or killer-type traps	416	78.0	21.8	44.9
Steel jaw leg-hold traps	389	73.0	24.3	46.9
Cage type live traps	206	38.6	4.2	4.3
Snares	66	12.4	9.3	3.0
Soft-catch or padded leg-hold traps	16	3.0	9.8	0.8
Others <sup>a</sup>	3	0.6	5.0	0.1

<sup>a</sup>Three trappers reported using EGG traps.

Table 39. Awareness of Best Management Practices among Illinois trappers (n=688).

Yes	44%
No	34
No response	22

Table 40. Attitudes of trappers toward Best Management Practices (BMP's) for trapping furbearers (Illinois, 1999-00 season).

Statement About BMP's	N	Percentage of Trappers <sup>a</sup>				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
BMP's are a good idea.	(n=231)	8%	9%	35%	36%	12%
BMP's will increase public acceptance of trapping.	(n=228)	8%	14%	41%	30%	7%
BMP's will lead to regulations that will prohibit some of the traps or sets I currently use.	(n=227)	5%	9%	30%	35%	21%
BMP's will not affect trapping in Illinois.	(n=227)	19%	30%	41%	8%	2%
BMP's will lead to regulations that allow trapping in areas where trapping is now prohibited.	(n=226)	8%	22%	53%	15%	2%
BMP's will improve the welfare of the trapped animal.	(n=226)	10%	22%	39%	26%	3%

<sup>a</sup> Trappers who were aware of Best Management Practices.

Table 41. Attitudes of trappers regarding the importance of the following sources of information on Best Management Practices (BMP's), Illinois 1999-00 season.

Sources of Information on Best Management Practices	N	Percentage of Trappers <sup>a</sup>		
		Not Important	Slightly Important	Very Important
Trapper Conventions	(n=222)	6%	30%	64%
Fur Buyer	(n=215)	24%	37%	39%
Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations	(n=219)	6%	37%	57%
DNR Employees	(n=215)	15%	37%	48%
Conservation Police Officers	(n=215)	15%	31%	54%
Internet	(n=212)	36%	43%	21%
Association Meetings	(n=213)	13%	41%	46%
Association Newsletter	(n=214)	13%	37%	50%
Outdoor Illinois Magazine	(n=217)	15%	43%	42%
Magazines (other than Outdoor Illinois)	(n=220)	14%	36%	50%
Friends/Family	(n=212)	21%	48%	31%
Other Trappers	(n=215)	11%	32%	57%
Other <sup>b</sup>	(n=11)	0%	0%	100%

<sup>a</sup>Trappers who were aware of Best Management Practices.

<sup>b</sup>Other sources of information on Best Management Practices include: trapper education programs, farmers, PETA, public and private schools, North American fur auctions, police departments and BMP committee.

Table 42. Attitudes of active trappers toward trapping in Illinois, 1999-00 season.

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Trapping is a central part of my life	13%	16%	29%	24%	18%
To learn about wildlife	6%	8%	22%	36%	28%
To control predator populations	5%	5%	20%	30%	40%
Trapping gives me an opportunity to be my own boss	34%	12%	19%	15%	19%
Trapping is a fun activity	3%	3%	13%	30%	51%
To share my experience with friends	17%	16%	28%	22%	16%
To feel close to nature and the land	3%	5%	13%	28%	51%
To control disease in wildlife populations	6%	7%	18%	27%	42%
To remain a part of the heritage of trapping	7%	5%	13%	28%	47%
To share my skills and knowledge with others	12%	12%	26%	25%	25%
For the independence	17%	11%	23%	21%	27%
To share my experience with family	12%	14%	22%	23%	29%
To observe wildlife	3%	3%	13%	32%	48%
To maintain a rural American tradition	7%	6%	15%	26%	45%
For the challenge	5%	4%	15%	28%	48%
To remove nuisance animals	5%	7%	18%	23%	46%
To provide a service to landowners	7%	8%	19%	28%	38%
Trapping is my favorite activity	9%	14%	25%	23%	28%
For the extra income it provides	40%	23%	21%	8%	8%
To maintain a family tradition	28%	14%	20%	15%	22%
To interact with other trappers	26%	19%	27%	15%	13%
To be self-reliant	22%	15%	20%	19%	24%



Table 43. Some personal characteristics of the trappers who participated in the 1999-00 Illinois Trapper Survey.

---

How many years have you trapped in Illinois? Mean =23

Do you belong to any trapper associations or organizations (n=674).

33% Yes (If "yes" how many?) mean =2

67% No

Do other members of your family trap (n=674)?

38% Yes

62% No

How many years have you lived in Illinois (n=676)?

0% less than one year

1% 1-5 years

1% 6-10 years

1% 11-15 years

5% 16-20 years

91% All my life

What is your gender (n=688)?

99% Male

1% Female

What is your approximate total (gross) household income (n=583)?

9% less than 15,000

23% \$15,000 to \$29,999

28% \$30,000 to \$44,999

19% \$45,000 to \$59,999

12% \$60,000 to \$74,999

9% Over 75,000

Age in years. Mean = 45

---

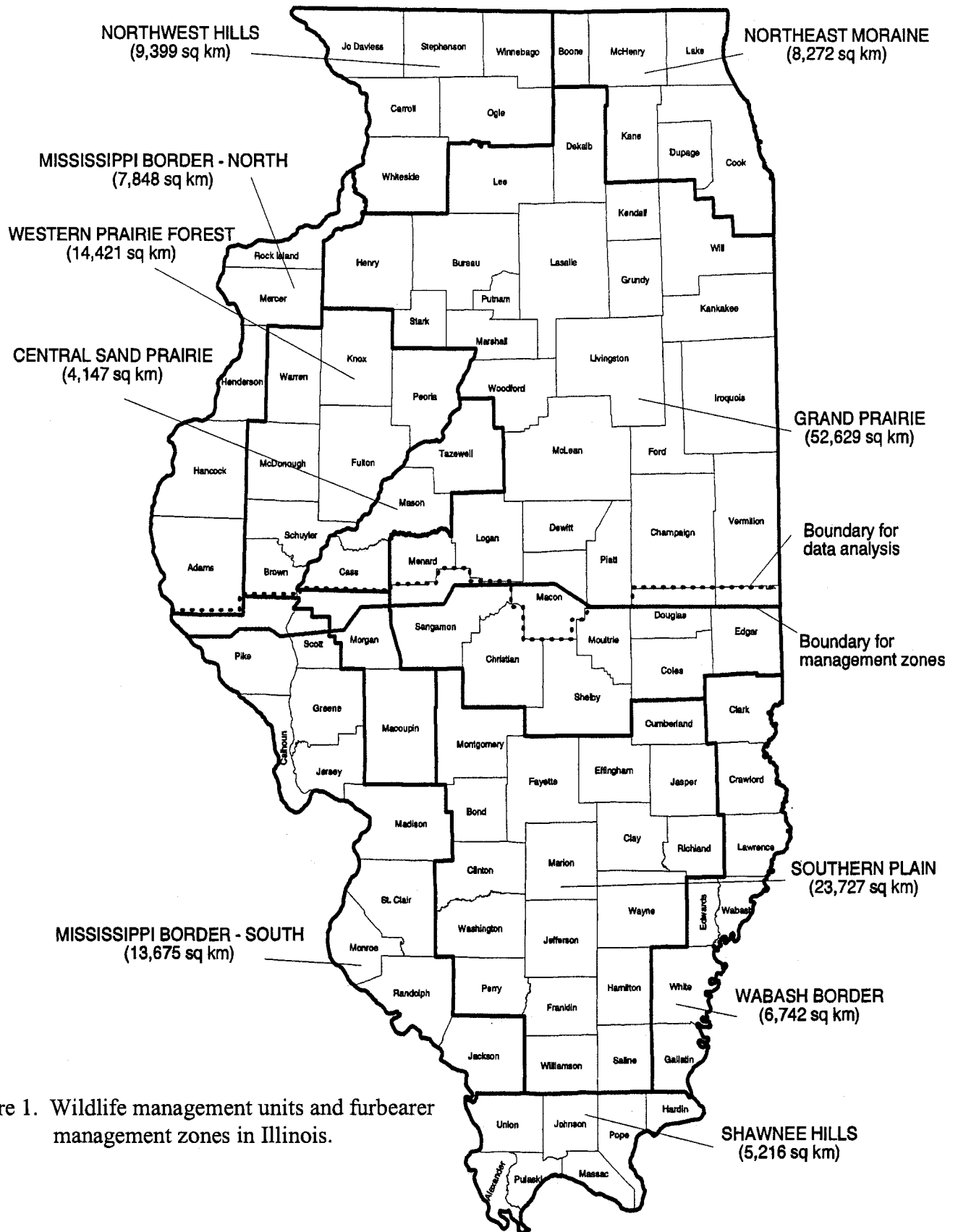


Figure 1. Wildlife management units and furbearer management zones in Illinois.

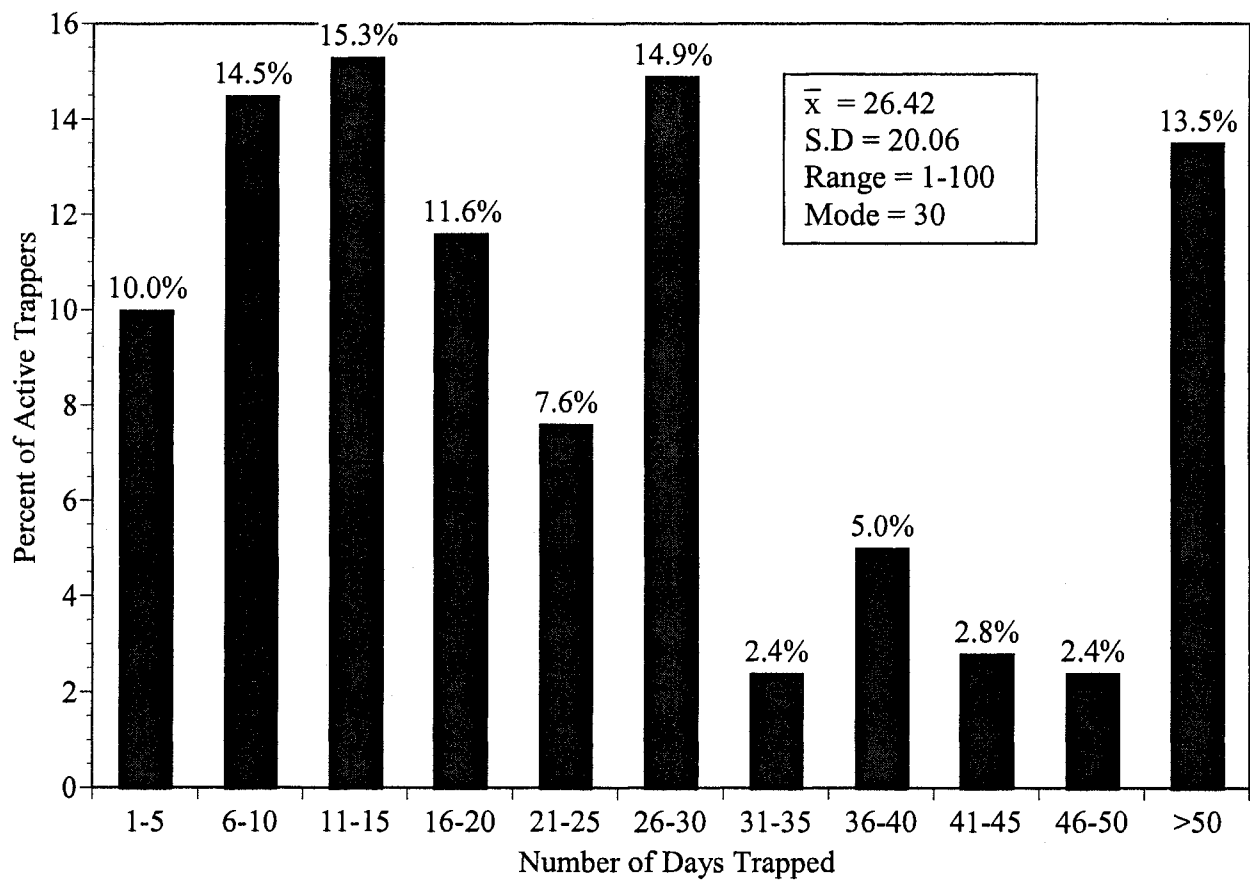


Figure 2. Distribution of days of trapping by trappers in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=502).

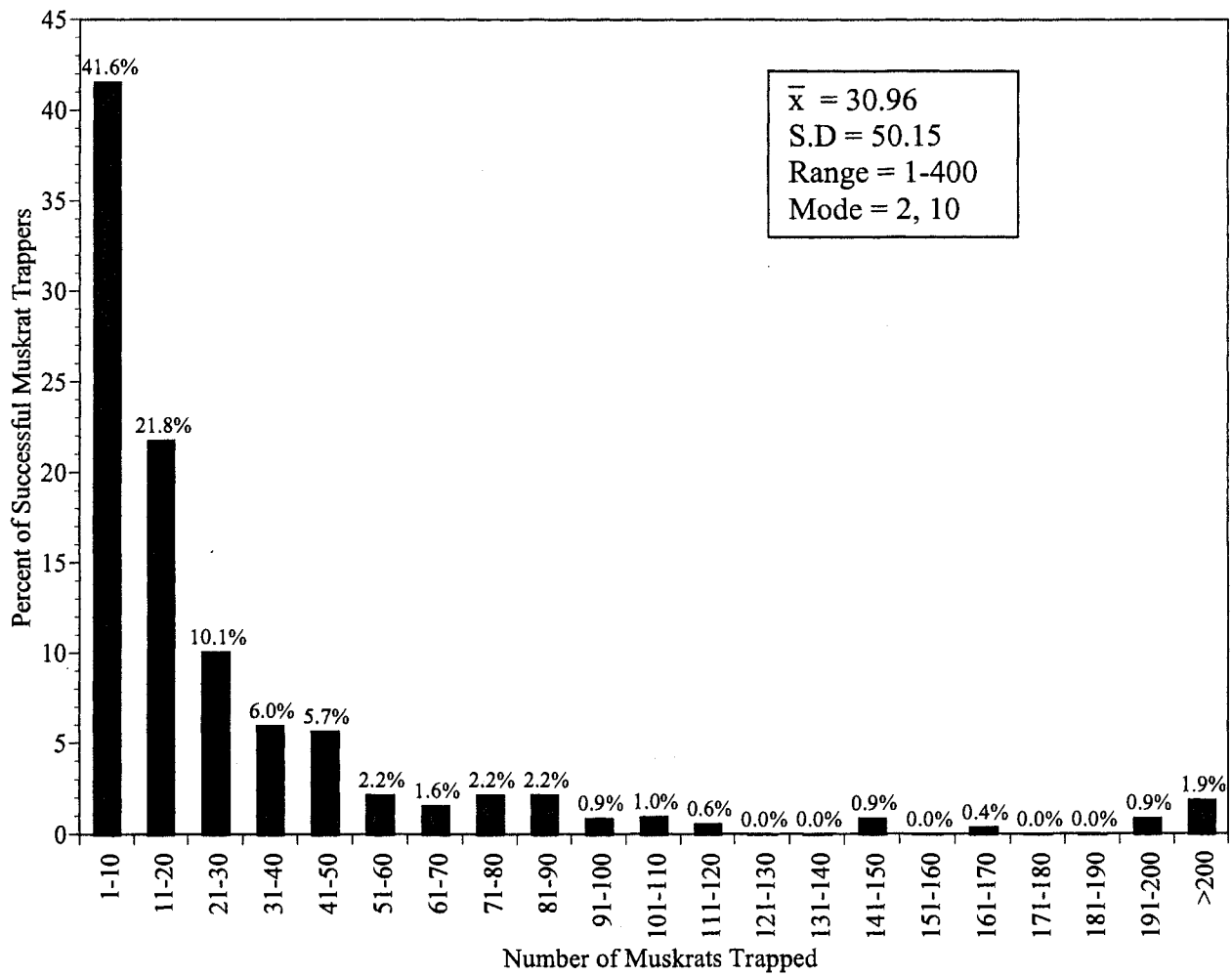


Figure 3. Distribution of the number of muskrats trapped per successful muskrat trapper in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=317).

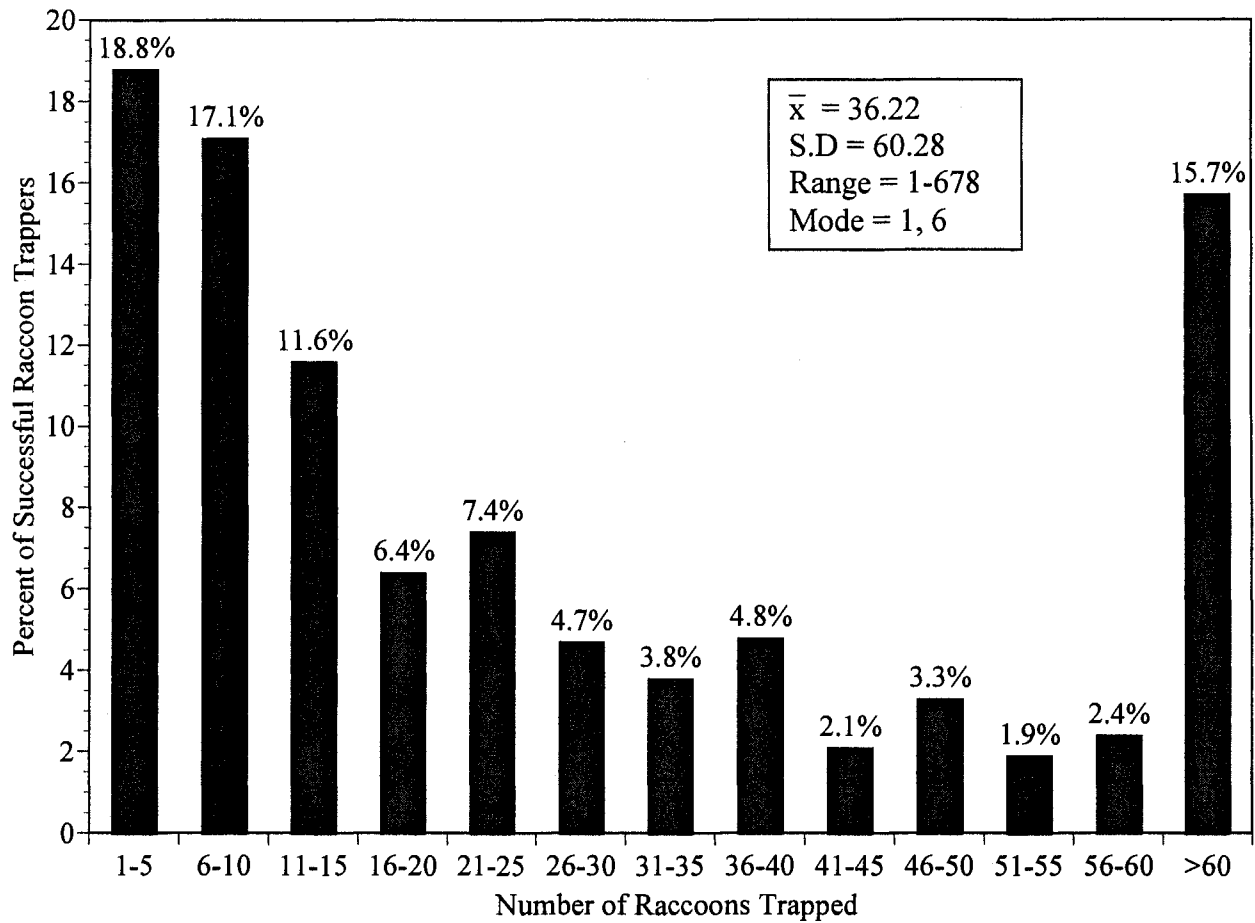


Figure 4. Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per successful raccoon trapper in Illinois, 1999-00 season (n=421).

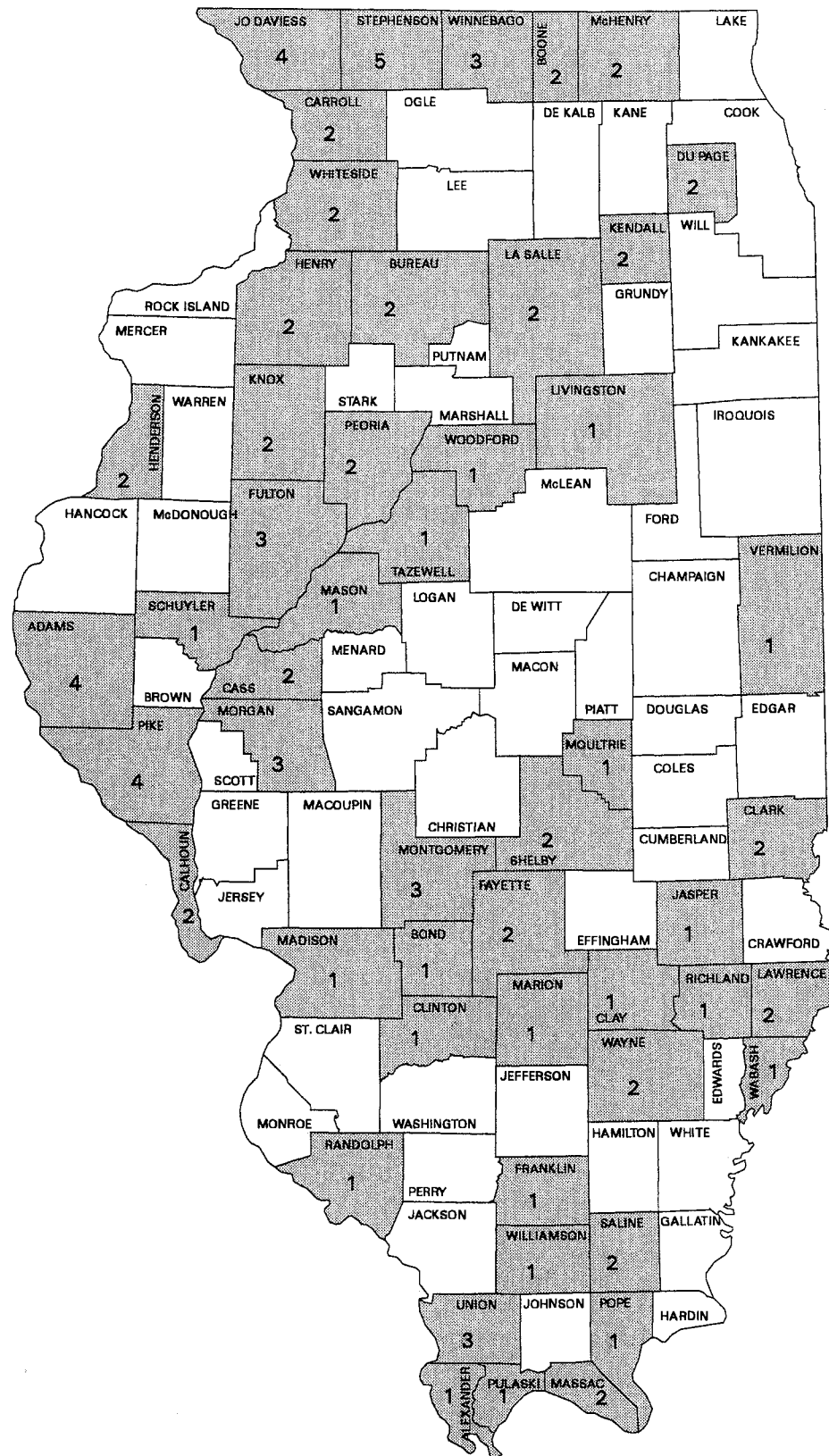


Figure 5. Illinois counties in which trappers reported observing river otters or their sign during the past year, 1999-00 season. The number of reports is listed for each county.

## Appendix A

Distribution of surveyed trappers (active and inactive) by county (Illinois, 1999-00 season).  
List is in alphabetical order by county.

<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Trappers</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Trappers</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Trappers</u>
Adams	12	Hardin	0	Morgan	9
Alexander	2	Henderson	13	Moultrie	2
Bond	0	Henry	13	Ogle	10
Boone	4	Iroquois	6	Peoria	16
Brown	4	Jackson	2	Perry	8
Bureau	14	Jasper	4	Piatt	2
Calhoun	1	Jefferson	4	Pike	10
Carroll	11	Jersey	5	Pope	1
Cass	6	Jo Daviess	15	Pulaski	2
Champaign	6	Johnson	0	Putnam	2
Christian	4	Kane	13	Randolph	12
Clark	5	Kankakee	8	Richland	9
Clay	8	Kendall	3	Rock Island	11
Clinton	11	Knox	19	St. Clair	18
Coles	4	Lake	4	Saline	1
Cook	6	LaSalle	17	Sangamon	6
Crawford	6	Lawrence	6	Schulyer	3
Cumberland	5	Lee	8	Scott	3
De Kalb	10	Livingston	11	Shelby	3
DeWitt	4	Logan	6	Stark	1
Douglas	3	McDonough	9	Stephenson	18
Du Page	4	McHenry	14	Tazewell	10
Edgar	5	McLean	4	Union	3
Edwards	5	Macon	3	Vermilion	10
Effingham	7	Macoupin	8	Wabash	3
Fayette	11	Madison	9	Warren	6
Ford	0	Marion	12	Washington	3
Franklin	4	Marshall	3	Wayne	7
Fulton	13	Mason	8	White	3
Gallatin	1	Massac	4	Whiteside	19
Greene	6	Menard	5	Will	8
Grundy	6	Mercer	9	Williamson	5
Hamilton	3	Monroe	4	Winnebago	8
Hancock	4	Montgomery	8	Woodford	4

## Appendix B

## Furbearer trapping seasons in Illinois, 1999-2000.

Species	Trapping Seasons	
	Northern Zone	Southern Zone
Muskrat, mink, raccoon, opossum, striped skunk, weasel	5 Nov. - 10 Jan. (67) <sup>a</sup>	10 Nov. - 15 Jan. (67)
Beaver	5 Nov. - 31 Mar. (148) <sup>b</sup>	10 Nov. - 31 Mar. (143)
Red fox, gray fox, coyote, badger	10 Nov. - 15 Jan. (67)	10 Nov. - 15 Jan. (67)

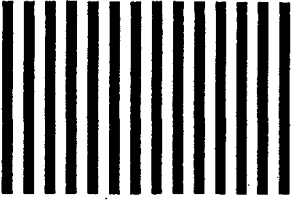
<sup>a</sup>Numbers in parentheses are season lengths in days.

<sup>b</sup>Those portions of Carroll, Whiteside, and Rock Island counties lying west of Illinois Rt. 84 from Interstate 80 north of the Jo Daviess county line were open to beaver trapping 5 Nov. 1999 - 10 Jan. 2000 only.



Appendix C

No Postage  
Necessary  
If Mailed in the  
United States



**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 2032 • SPRINGFIELD, IL.

Postage Will Be Paid By Addressee

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Wildlife Resources Division**  
**Furbearer Section**  
 P.O. BOX 19225  
 SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9961

**TO ISSUING CLERK:**

**COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL  
IMMEDIATELY UPON SALE OF  
FIRST LICENSE IN BOOK**

The Department of Natural Resources is conducting a survey to estimate the fur harvest in Illinois. To effect this, we need the names and addresses of part of our licensed trappers. Please print at the bottom of this page, in the space provided, name, mailing address including zip code, and county of residence of the person who purchases the first license in this book. Please detach the next page and give to license purchaser.

Thank you for your cooperation. **Please note** reverse side is Business Reply postal card, perforated at binding for removing.

**MAIL IMMEDIATELY UPON SALE OF LICENSE  
TRAPPING (1999 SERIES)  
Please Print Plainly**

Name	JOHN TRAPPER
Street Address, R.R. and Box Number	RR 1, BOX 23
City and State	HOMETOWN IL
Zip Code	61234
County of Residence	SANGAMON

Appendix D

**DETACH THIS PAGE AND GIVE TO  
PERSON WHO PURCHASES FIRST  
LICENSE IN BOOK**

Dear Trapper:

Please keep an accurate record of the number of days you had traps set, the average number and kinds of traps you used during the season, the number of furbearers you caught in traps, what county you trapped in most, and the number and kinds of pelts you sold in Illinois and Out of State.

You may be one of the selected trappers contacted at the close of the trapping season and provided a form to return to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Thanks for your cooperation.

**THE BACK SIDE OF THIS CARD MAY BE USED FOR RECORD KEEPING.**

Number of TRAPS I had set: \_\_\_\_\_

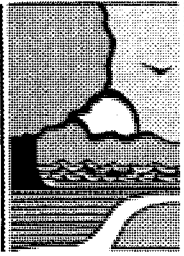
Number of DAYS I had traps set: \_\_\_\_\_

FURBEARERS CAUGHT IN TRAPS: \_\_\_\_\_

Species	Total Number Caught	Number Sold	
		In Illinois	Out-of- State
Muskrat			
Mink			
Raccoon			
Opossum			
Beaver			
Red Fox			
Gray Fox			
Coyote			
Striped Skunk			
Weasel			

Other Animals Caught: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Illinois**  
Department of  
**Natural Resources**

<http://dnr.state.il.us>

524 South Second Street • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1787

George H. Ryan, Governor • Brent Manning, Director

Dear Illinois Trapper,

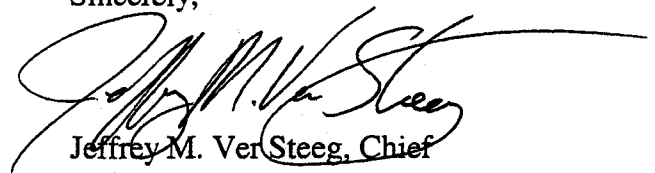
You are one of a select group of Illinois trappers asked to provide information about your trapping activities during the 1999-2000 trapping season. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire about your trapping harvest and activities in Illinois during the 1999-2000 trapping season.

The information you and other selected trappers furnish our biologists is vital for proper furbearer management and allows us to safeguard furbearer populations while maximizing trapping opportunities.

This survey is limited to those trappers selected. Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire. A stamped envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg, Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

Appendix F

# Illinois Trapper Survey

1999 – 2000 Season

ALL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

Postage-paid return envelope provided

---

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

**Please take 15 minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. Your responses will tell us more about Illinois trappers and help us manage our fur resources.**

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. Disclosure of information is voluntary.

**Section 1. Trapping Harvest** Complete **EACH BLANK** for all species trapped in Illinois during the 1999-2000 season. Report only your personal catch. If you trapped with a partner, list only your half of the catch.

1. Did you set any traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 1999-2000 trapping season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No (Please go to **Section 4**)

Species	Total Trapped	Number Sold in Illinois	Number Sold or Shipped Out of State	Number Not Sold
Muskrat	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mink	_____	_____	_____	_____
Raccoon	_____	_____	_____	_____
Opossum	_____	_____	_____	_____
Red Fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
Gray Fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
Beaver	_____	_____	_____	_____
Skunk	_____	_____	_____	_____
Weasel	_____	_____	_____	_____
Coyote	_____	_____	_____	_____
Badger	_____	_____	_____	_____

2. How would you describe Illinois furbearer populations for the following species during the 1999-2000 season compared to the 1998-1999 season? (Circle the number for your response)

	Higher than last year	Same as last year	Lower than last year	Don't Know
Muskrat	1	2	3	4
Raccoon	1	2	3	4
Red Fox	1	2	3	4
Beaver	1	2	3	4
Coyote	1	2	3	4

3. Have you seen a river otter or otter sign in Illinois during the past year?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

If "Yes", what county? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ No

4. Did you hunt furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 1999-2000 season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No (Please go to **Section 2**)

4a. If "Yes" please give the number of each species taken:

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

5. If you **hunted raccoons** during the 1999-2000 season, how many days did you use the following methods?

Predator call (electronic or mouth) \_\_\_\_\_ days or nights

Dogs \_\_\_\_\_ days or nights

Using a hand-held light on foot (without dogs or predator calls) \_\_\_\_\_ days or nights

Other (Please identify): \_\_\_\_\_ days or nights

6. Have you been denied access to hunt raccoons on land you previously hunted?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

If "Yes", what county: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ No

<p>Section 2. Trapping Activity <b>Please answer the following questions about your trapping activities in Illinois.</b></p>
--

1. In which county did you do **most** of your trapping? \_\_\_\_\_ county

2. When do you do **most** of your trapping? (Please check only one response)

\_\_\_\_\_ weekends

\_\_\_\_\_ weekdays

\_\_\_\_\_ both weekend and weekdays equally

3. How many days (or nights) did you have traps set? \_\_\_\_\_ days (or nights)

4. Did you trap throughout the entire season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No      If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How many of the following types of traps did you use on your trap line during the 1999-2000 season?

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Conibear or killer-type traps	_____
Steel jaw leg-hold traps	_____
Soft-catch or padded leg-hold traps	_____
Cage-type live traps	_____
Snares	_____
Other type (please identify): _____	_____

6. How many days did you spend involved in the following activities related to trapping?

Scouting for furbearer sign \_\_\_\_\_ days

Maintaining trapping equipment \_\_\_\_\_ days

Learning or practicing new trapping techniques \_\_\_\_\_ days

7. How does the amount of time you spent trapping this past season compare with the previous year?

\_\_\_\_ More

\_\_\_\_ Same

\_\_\_\_ Less

8. When you trap (setting and checking traps) do you usually do so:

\_\_\_\_ by yourself

\_\_\_\_ with a friend

\_\_\_\_ with a family member

9. Did you attend any trapping association meetings or conventions during the past 12 months?

\_\_\_\_ Yes If "Yes", how many did you attend? \_\_\_\_\_ meetings/conventions

\_\_\_\_ No

10. Have you ever taken a formal trapper's education course?

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

If "Yes", why? (Please check one)

\_\_\_\_ It was required

\_\_\_\_ I wanted to take it

\_\_\_\_ other reason (Please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

11. Have you introduced another person into trapping in the past 5 years?

\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_ No

11a. If "Yes" was this person a:

\_\_\_\_ friend

\_\_\_\_ member of your immediate family

\_\_\_\_ member of your extended family

11b. Was this person a youth?

\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_ No

**Section 3. Best Management Practices** Please state if you agree or disagree with the following statements about Best Management Practices (BMP's) by circling the number that matches your response.

1. Are you aware of Best Management Practices (BMP's) for trapping furbearers?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No ( Please go to Section 4)

Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements by circling the number that matches your response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
2. BMP's are a good idea.	1	2	3	4	5
3. BMP's will increase public acceptance of trapping.	1	2	3	4	5
4. BMP's will lead to regulations that will prohibit some of the traps or sets I currently use.	1	2	3	4	5
5. BMP's will not affect trapping in Illinois.	1	2	3	4	5
6. BMP's will lead to regulations that allow trapping in areas were trapping is now prohibited.	1	2	3	4	5
7. BMP's will improve the welfare of the trapped animal.	1	2	3	4	5

8. Please rate the **importance** of the following sources of information on **BMP's**:

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Very Important
Trapper Conventions	1	2	3
Fur Buyer	1	2	3
Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations	1	2	3
DNR employees	1	2	3
Conservation Police Officers	1	2	3
Internet	1	2	3
Association meetings	1	2	3
Association Newsletter	1	2	3
Outdoor Illinois magazine	1	2	3
Magazines (other than Outdoor Illinois)	1	2	3
Friends/Family	1	2	3
Other Trappers	1	2	3
Other (Please identify): _____	1	2	3



**Section 4. Attitudes Toward Trapping** 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 <i>Important</i>	Slightly <i>Important</i>	Moderately <i>Important</i>	Very <i>Important</i>	Extremely <i>Important</i>
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
<hr/>					
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 a part of the heritage of trapping	1	2	3	4	5
To share my skills and knowledge with others	1	2	3	4	5
<hr/>					
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
<hr/>					
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 other trappers	1	2	3	4	5
To be self-reliant	1	2	3	4	5

**Section 5. Trapper Information** The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in trapping in Illinois. Please tell us something about yourself by responding to the following questions. All responses will be kept confidential and are completely anonymous.

How many years have you trapped in Illinois? \_\_\_\_\_ Years

Do you belong to any trapper associations or organizations?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (Please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ No

Do other members of your family trap?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

How many years have you lived in Illinois?

\_\_\_\_\_ Less than one year

\_\_\_\_\_ 1-5 years

\_\_\_\_\_ 6-10 years

\_\_\_\_\_ 11-15 years

\_\_\_\_\_ 16-20 years

\_\_\_\_\_ All my life

What is your county of residence? \_\_\_\_\_ County

What is your gender? \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female

What is your approximate total (gross) household income?

\_\_\_\_\_ less than 15,000

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15,000 to \$29,999

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30,000 to \$44,999

\_\_\_\_\_ \$45,000 to \$59,999

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60,000 to \$74,999

\_\_\_\_\_ over \$75,000

Please give your age. \_\_\_\_\_ Years

## COMMENTS

**RETURN ENVELOPE IS PROVIDED – POSTAGE-PAID**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!**

Your input will help us understand more about hunters and hunting in Illinois.

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, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**This page is intentionally blank.**



