

**HumanDimensions**  
Research Program



ILLINOIS  
NATURAL  
HISTORY  
SURVEY



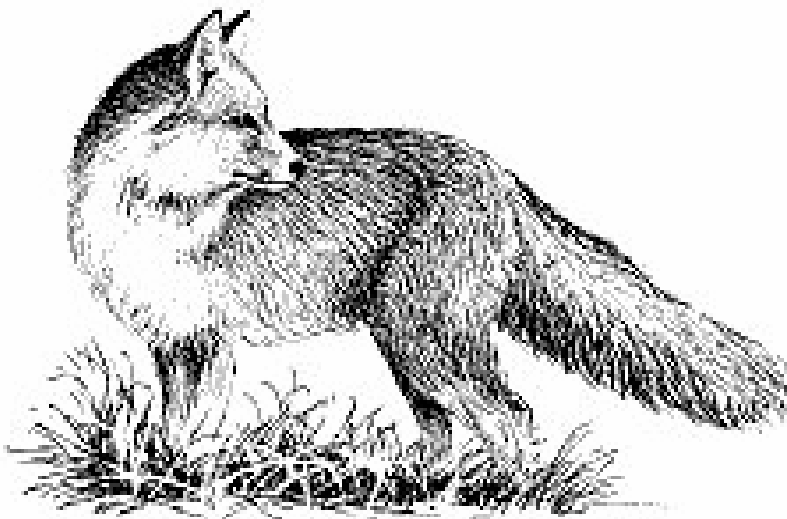
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# Results of the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey



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

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

RESULTS OF THE  
2005-2006 ILLINOIS TRAPPER SURVEY

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND  
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-15  
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JOB NO. 101.2

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Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration  
W-112-R-15

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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## **ABSTRACT**

Nine-hundred persons who purchased a 2005 resident Illinois trapping license were surveyed after the 2005-2006 furbearer trapping seasons. A self-administered questionnaire was successfully mailed to 852 of the 900 licensees, and 630 (74%) returned useable questionnaires. Trapping license sales decreased 25% from 2004 (3,194) to 2005 (2,414). Trappers set an average of 24 traps for an average of 30 days during the 2005-2006 season, and they harvested an estimated 92,835 furbearers (a 45% decrease from the 168,367 furbearers harvested in 2004-2005). Sightings of uncommon furbearers (river otter, gray fox and bobcat) by trappers and fur harvest by hunting effort and harvest were also documented.

## **OBJECTIVE**

To survey furbearer (11 species of mammals) trappers annually to determine their activities, harvests, characteristics, attitudes, and opinions of wildlife management issues in Illinois.

## **METHODS**

A stratified random sample of 900 resident Illinois trappers was selected from sales of the 2005 trapper license. The total number of trappers surveyed per wildlife management unit and furbearer management zone was determined based on the proportion of total trapper license sales in the respective unit (Figure 1). Trappers were assigned to a wildlife management unit and furbearer management zone based on self-reported county of residence. Address information was collected via cards shown in Appendix A and B. Each trapper was mailed a 2-page questionnaire on March 27, 2006. Non-respondents were mailed a reminder postcard on April 15, 2006. Remaining non-respondents were mailed a second questionnaire on April 28, 2006. Trappers not responding to the previous mailings were mailed a second reminder postcard on May 25, 2006. Full text of mailings can be found in Appendices C-F. The initial sample was reduced to 852 due to undeliverable questionnaires.

Estimates of the number of trappers ( $Trap_{sp}$ ) and harvest ( $Harv_{sp}$ ), and estimated harvest sold ( $Sold_{sp}$ ) by species were made as follows:

$$Trap_{sp} = \frac{L_t}{n} Trap_r,$$

$$Harv_{sp} = \frac{L_t}{n} Harv_r,$$

$$Sold_{sp} = \frac{L_t}{n} Sold_r,$$

where  $L_t$  = total number of resident trapping licenses sold in 2005-2006,  $n$  = number of respondents to 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper survey,  $Trap_r$  = number of respondents to 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper survey who reported trapping each species,  $Harv_r$  = total harvest of each species reported by respondents to 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper survey, and  $Sold_r$  = number of pelts reported sold by respondents to 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper survey.

Estimated number of hunters, harvest and days hunting were used to calculate the percent of license holders pursuing each species ( $Trap_{\%}$ ), average season harvest ( $\overline{Harv}_{sp,season}$ ), and percent of total harvest sold ( $Sold_{\%}$ ) as follows:

$$Trap_{\%} = \frac{Trap_{sp}}{L_t} \times 100,$$

$$\overline{Harv}_{sp,season} = \frac{Harv_{sp}}{Trap_{sp}},$$

$$Sold_{\%} = \frac{Sold_{sp}}{L_t} \times 100.$$

Confidence intervals were also calculated for estimated number of trappers, species harvests, and average season harvest as follows:

$$95\% \text{ CI } [Trap_{sp}] = \pm 2L_t \sqrt{\frac{pq}{n}},$$

$$95\% \text{ CI } [Harv_{sp}] = \pm 2L_t \sqrt{\frac{\sum (Harv_r - \overline{Harv}_r)^2}{Trap_r - 1} \cdot \frac{1}{Trap_r}},$$

$$95\% \text{ CI } [ \overline{Harv}_{sp,season} ] = \pm 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{\sum (Harv_r - \overline{Harv}_r)^2}{Trap_r - 1}},$$

where  $p$  = proportion of  $n$  who hunted referent species and  $q = (1-p)$ . Season dates and harvest regulations for the 2005-2006 trapping season can be found in Appendix G.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Trapper Participation*

A total of 630 (74%) licensed trappers responded to the survey. Estimates of harvest and effort were based on sales of 2,414 resident trapping licenses. Of the 630 license purchasers in our sample, 356 (57%) set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2005-2006 season. Trappers set an average of 24 traps for an average of 30 days/nights (Table 1). Harvest and participation reported by survey respondents is presented in Tables 2-3. The maximum number of days a trapper could have legally trapped was 147. Only 18% of respondents set traps for >45 days and 12% set traps for 30-45 days (Figure 2).

Participation during the 2005-2006 season was highest among raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) trappers, estimated at 1,176 trappers statewide (Table 4). Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) (801 estimated trappers) and beaver (*Castor canadensis*) (682 estimated trappers) were second and third in participation, respectively. Gray fox (*Urocyon ceneroargenteus*) (61 estimated trappers), badger (*Taxidea taxus*) (42 estimated trappers), and weasels (*Mustela frenata* and *nivalis*) (15 estimated trappers) were the least targeted species.

### *Harvest*

Trappers harvested more raccoons than any other species in Illinois during the 2005-2006 season, with an estimated 41,125 raccoons taken (Table 4). This was a decrease of 48% from the estimated harvest of 79,616 raccoons trapped during the 2004-2005 season. Muskrat (25,766 estimated harvest) was the second-

most harvested species in 2004-2005, followed by beaver (9,132 estimated harvest), opossum (8,722 estimated harvest), coyote (3,089 estimated harvest), striped skunk (2,085 estimated harvest), and mink (2,065 estimated harvest). Trappers harvested an average of 35 raccoons (Figure 3) and 32 muskrats per trapper (Figure 4).

### ***Changes in Trapper Participation and Harvest***

The number of Illinois residents participating in trapping decreased by 24% from 2005-2006 (3,194 trapping licenses sold) to 2005-2006 (2,414 trapping licenses sold). Harvest of species and trapper effort is reported by wildlife management unit and region of the state in tables 7-28. Counties trapped by survey respondents are presented in Table 30.

Estimated statewide harvest and average harvest per trapper decreased for all species in 2005-2006. These decreases are directly linked to a decrease in the total number of resident trapping license sold and, of license purchasers, low participation. Estimated total trapper harvest (all species combined) decreased from 168,367 furbearers in 2004-2005 to 92,835 in 2005-2006 (Table 6). Trends in estimated statewide harvest for the previous 10 years (1995-2005) are summarized in Table 31.

### ***Fur Hunting by Trappers***

A total of 168 trappers (27% of licensees sampled) reported hunting furbearers with firearms and/or dogs in 2005-2006 (Table 32). This equates to a statewide total of 652 hunting trappers. Total harvest of furbearers by hunting trappers was estimated to be 12,308 furbearers or an average of 19 pelts per hunter. Furbearer hunters harvested more raccoons than any other species, followed by coyotes (Table 32).

### ***Observations of Gray Fox, River Otter, and Bobcat***

Survey respondents were asked report the frequency at which they encountered gray fox, river otter, or bobcat or sign from these species in Illinois during the 2005-2006 season. Fifteen trappers caught gray fox, 3 shot gray fox and 53 saw gray fox in 2005-2006 (Table 33). The locations of observations are presented in Figure 5. River otters were seen by 105 trappers (18% of reporting trappers), and sign was observed by 102

trappers (17% of those reporting; Table 34; Figure 6). Bobcats were seen by 65 trappers and their sign was observed by 45 trappers (Table 35) in 42 counties (Figure 7).

## 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.

## TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1. Trapping activity reported by respondents to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey.

	<i>n</i>	Total (traps, days)	$\bar{x}$ (traps, days)	Range (traps, days)	Std. dev. (traps, days)
Number of traps set	356	8407	23.6	1-250	30.6
Number of days trapped	356	10730	30.1	1-145	25.1

Table 2. Harvest and participation in trapping reported by respondents to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 630).

Species	Number of Reported Successful Trappers	% (total respondents)	Reported Harvest by Successful Trappers
Muskrat	209	33.17	6,724
Mink	146	23.17	539
Raccoon	307	48.73	10,732
Opossum	176	27.94	2,276
Red fox	74	11.75	184
Gray fox	16	2.54	20
Beaver	178	28.25	2,383
Striped skunk	106	16.83	544
Weasel	4	0.63	5
Coyote	106	16.83	806
Badger	11	1.75	13



Table 3. Distribution of reported furbearer harvest among successful trappers in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey.

Total Season Catch	Percentage of Successful Trappers										
	Muskrat	Mink	Raccoon	Opossum	Red fox	Gray fox	Beaver	Striped Skunk	Weasel	Coyote	Badger
<i>n</i>	209	146	307	176	74	16	178	106	4	106	11
1	6.2	32.2	2.0	7.4	50.0	75.0	14.6	21.7	75.0	26.4	81.8
2	6.2	24.7	6.5	10.2	14.9	25.0	6.2	22.6	25.0	10.4	18.2
3	5.7	11.0	3.6	10.2	13.5	0.0	8.4	15.1	0.0	8.5	0.0
4	4.8	6.8	2.9	8.0	8.1	0.0	7.9	7.5	0.0	7.5	0.0
5	5.3	6.8	5.5	6.8	4.1	0.0	9.0	1.0	0.0	6.6	0.0
6	2.4	5.5	5.9	6.3	5.4	0.0	6.7	9.4	0.0	8.5	0.0
7	1.9	4.1	1.6	1.7	0.0	0.0	3.9	4.7	0.0	2.8	0.0
8	1.4	2.7	3.3	4.0	1.4	0.0	6.2	3.8	0.0	2.8	0.0
9	0.5	0.7	1.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	2.8	1.0	0.0	1.9	0.0
10	7.2	2.1	4.6	6.3	0.0	0.0	3.4	2.8	0.0	0.9	0.0
11	1.0	0.0	2.0	1.1	1.4	0.0	3.4	0.9	0.0	1.9	0.0
12	3.8	0.0	3.3	4.5	0.0	0.0	1.1	2.8	0.0	0.9	0.0
13	2.4	0.7	1.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0
14	1.0	0.7	2.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0
15	2.9	0.7	3.3	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.0	2.8	0.0
16-20	5.3	0.7	9.8	8.5	0.0	0.0	4.5	1.9	0.0	6.6	0.0
21-25	5.7	0.0	5.5	4.0	0.0	0.0	6.2	2.9	0.0	1.9	0.0
>25	36.4	0.7	36.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	12.9	0.9	0.0	6.6	0.0

Table 4. Estimated participation, effort and harvest of Illinois resident trappers based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 630).

Species	<i>n</i>	Estimated Number of Trappers ( <i>Trap<sub>sp</sub></i> )	Percent of Licensed Trappers ( <i>Trap<sub>%</sub></i> )	Average Season Catch ( <i>Harv<sub>sp</sub></i> )	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest ( <i>Harv<sub>sp,season</sub></i> )	Estimated Percent Sold ( <i>Sold<sub>sp</sub></i> )	Estimated Total Sold ( <i>Sold<sub>%</sub></i> )
Muskrat	209	801	33.18	32.17	25,766	95.75	24,670
Mink	146	559	23.18	3.69	2,065	91.09	1,882
Raccoon	307	1,176	48.73	34.96	41,125	94.23	38,753
Opossum	176	674	27.94	12.93	8,722	51.49	4,491
Red fox	74	284	11.75	2.49	705	86.96	613
Gray fox	16	61	2.54	1.25	77	55.00	42
Beaver	178	682	28.26	13.39	9,132	92.57	8,453
Skunk	106	406	16.83	5.13	2,085	37.32	778
Weasel	4	15	0.63	1.25	19	20.00	4
Coyote	106	406	16.83	7.60	3,089	76.30	2,357
Badger	11	42	1.75	1.18	50	84.62	42

Table 5. Confidence intervals (95%) for estimated participation, effort and harvest of Illinois resident trappers based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 630).

Species	n	Total Estimated Trappers		Estimated Average Season Bag			Total Estimated Harvest		
Muskrat	209	801	± 91	32.17	± 6.31	25,766	± 4,371		
Mink	146	559	± 81	3.69	± 0.93	2,065	± 451		
Raccoon	307	1,176	± 96	34.96	± 6.64	41,125	± 6,390		
Opossum	176	674	± 86	12.93	± 2.57	8,722	± 1,542		
Red fox	74	284	± 62	2.49	± 0.52	705	± 159		
Gray fox	16	61	± 30	1.25	± 0.22	77	± 30		
Beaver	178	682	± 87	13.39	± 3.10	9,132	± 1,808		
Skunk	106	406	± 72	5.13	± 1.30	2,085	± 482		
Weasel	4	15	± 15	1.25	± 0.49	19	± 16		
Coyote	106	406	± 72	7.60	± 1.82	3,089	± 687		
Badger	11	42	± 25	1.18	± 0.24	50	± 23		

Table 6. Change in number of successful trappers and harvest by species in Illinois based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey. Comparisons are between 2004 and 2005 license years.

Species	Successful Trappers			Total Harvest		
	2004	2005	% Change	2004	2005	% Change
Muskrat	1,290	801	-37.9	41,790	25,766	-38.3
Mink	913	559	-38.8	3,737	2,065	-44.7
Raccoon	2,155	1176	-45.4	79,616	41,125	-48.3
Opossum	1,409	674	-52.2	24,441	8,722	-64.3
Red Fox	394	284	-27.9	913	705	-22.8
Gray Fox	42	61	45.2	84	77	-8.3
Beaver	1,033	682	-34.0	9,415	9,132	-3.0
Skunk	758	406	-46.4	3,821	2,085	-45.4
Weasel	54	15	-72.2	96	19	-80.2
Coyote	752	406	-46.0	4,388	3,089	-29.6
Badger	60	42	-30.0	66	50	-24.2

Table 7. Summary of MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 209).

Wildlife Management Unit	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	31	119	14.83	1.26	45.65	5,422	57.69
Northeast Moraine	10	38	4.78	0.46	10.00	383	4.63
Mississippi Border-North	6	23	2.87	0.29	42.17	969	12.35
Mississippi Border-South	23	88	11.00	0.64	34.48	3,039	22.22
Western Prairie/Forest	28	107	13.40	0.74	32.14	3,449	23.92
Central Sand Prairie	9	34	4.31	0.83	84.22	2,905	70.04
Grand Prairie	66	253	31.58	0.48	27.15	6,867	13.05
Southern Plain	27	103	12.92	0.44	18.70	1,935	8.16
Wabash Border	3	11	1.44	0.17	37.67	433	6.42
Shawnee Hills	6	23	2.87	0.44	15.83	364	6.98
Statewide	209	801	100.00	0.55	32.17	25,766	17.64

Table 8. Summary of MINK trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 146).

Wildlife Management Unit	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	13	50	8.90	0.53	3.77	188	2.00
Northeast Moraine	7	27	4.79	0.32	1.71	46	0.56
Mississippi Border-North	8	31	5.48	0.39	3.00	92	1.17
Mississippi Border-South	15	57	10.27	0.42	7.72	444	3.25
Western Prairie/Forest	21	80	14.38	0.56	3.00	241	1.67
Central Sand Prairie	4	15	2.74	0.37	3.25	50	1.20
Grand Prairie	50	192	34.25	0.36	3.96	759	1.44
Southern Plain	21	80	14.38	0.34	2.38	192	0.81
Wabash Border	1	4	0.68	0.06	1.00	4	0.06
Shawnee Hills	6	23	4.11	0.44	2.17	50	0.96
Statewide	146	559	100.00	0.38	3.69	2,065	1.41

Table 9. Summary of RACCOON trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 307).

Wildlife Management Unit	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	43	165	14.01	1.75	45.42	7,484	79.62
Northeast Moraine	18	69	5.86	0.83	21.56	1,487	17.97
Mississippi Border-North	16	61	5.21	0.78	25.31	1,552	19.78
Mississippi Border-South	30	115	9.77	0.84	64.03	7,361	53.83
Western Prairie/Forest	41	157	13.36	1.09	40.78	6,407	44.43
Central Sand Prairie	9	34	2.93	0.83	19.44	671	16.17
Grand Prairie	95	364	30.94	0.69	29.44	10,718	20.37
Southern Plain	41	157	13.36	0.66	25.59	4,020	16.94
Wabash Border	4	15	1.30	0.23	11.75	180	2.67
Shawnee Hills	10	38	3.26	0.73	32.50	1,245	23.88
Statewide	307	1,176	100.00	0.81	34.96	41,125	28.15

Table 10. Summary of OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 176).

Wildlife Management Unit	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	25	96	14.20	1.02	17.52	1,678	17.86
Northeast Moraine	10	38	5.68	0.46	11.80	452	5.47
Mississippi Border-North	11	42	6.25	0.54	9.36	395	5.03
Mississippi Border-South	21	80	11.93	0.59	14.67	1,180	8.63
Western Prairie/Forest	26	100	14.77	0.69	15.00	1,494	10.36
Central Sand Prairie	4	15	2.27	0.37	25.50	391	9.43
Grand Prairie	55	211	31.25	0.40	10.67	2,249	4.27
Southern Plain	15	57	8.52	0.24	8.20	471	1.99
Wabash Border	3	11	1.70	0.17	11.33	130	1.93
Shawnee Hills	6	23	3.41	0.44	12.17	280	5.36
Statewide	176	674	100.00	0.46	12.93	8,722	5.97

Table 11. Summary of RED FOX trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 74).

Wildlife Management Unit	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	7	27	9.46	0.29	2.43	65	0.69
Northeast Moraine	2	8	2.70	0.09	1.00	8	0.09
Mississippi Border-North	1	4	1.35	0.05	1.00	4	0.05
Mississippi Border-South	8	31	10.81	0.22	3.63	111	0.81
Western Prairie/Forest	10	38	13.51	0.27	2.40	92	0.64
Central Sand Prairie	1	4	1.35	0.09	1.00	4	0.09
Grand Prairie	30	115	40.54	0.22	1.97	226	0.43
Southern Plain	9	34	12.16	0.15	4.44	153	0.65
Wabash Border	1	4	1.35	0.06	4.00	15	0.23
Shawnee Hills	5	19	6.76	0.37	1.40	27	0.51
Statewide	74	284	100.00	0.19	2.49	705	0.48

Table 12. Summary of GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 16).

Wildlife Management Unit	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	1	4	6.25	0.04	1.00	4	0.04
Northeast Moraine	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Mississippi Border-North	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Mississippi Border-South	2	8	12.50	0.06	1.00	8	0.06
Western Prairie/Forest	1	4	6.25	0.03	2.00	8	0.05
Central Sand Prairie	1	4	6.25	0.09	1.00	4	0.09
Grand Prairie	2	8	12.50	0.01	1.00	8	0.01
Southern Plain	5	19	31.25	0.08	1.40	27	0.11
Wabash Border	1	4	6.25	0.06	1.00	4	0.06
Shawnee Hills	3	11	18.75	0.22	1.33	15	0.29
Statewide	16	61	100.00	0.04	1.25	77	0.05

Table 13. Summary of BEAVER trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 178).

Wildlife Management Unit	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	22	84	12.36	0.90	7.95	671	7.13
Northeast Moraine	9	34	5.06	0.42	5.56	192	2.32
Mississippi Border-North	8	31	4.49	0.39	21.25	651	8.30
Mississippi Border-South	17	65	9.55	0.48	19.12	1,245	9.11
Western Prairie/Forest	24	92	13.48	0.64	16.63	1,529	10.60
Central Sand Prairie	7	27	3.93	0.65	26.86	720	17.37
Grand Prairie	65	249	36.52	0.47	11.02	2,744	5.21
Southern Plain	13	50	7.30	0.21	20.46	1,019	4.30
Wabash Border	4	15	2.25	0.23	8.00	123	1.82
Shawnee Hills	9	34	5.06	0.66	6.89	238	4.55
Statewide	178	682	100.00	0.47	13.39	9,132	6.25

Table 14. Summary of SKUNK trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 106).

Wildlife Management Unit	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	14	54	13.21	0.57	5.57	299	3.18
Northeast Moraine	4	15	3.77	0.19	4.25	65	0.79
Mississippi Border-North	5	19	4.72	0.24	2.20	42	0.54
Mississippi Border-South	13	50	12.26	0.36	3.62	180	1.32
Western Prairie/Forest	12	46	11.32	0.32	10.42	479	3.32
Central Sand Prairie	3	11	2.83	0.28	3.00	34	0.83
Grand Prairie	40	153	37.74	0.29	4.60	705	1.34
Southern Plain	10	38	9.43	0.16	3.80	146	0.61
Wabash Border	2	8	1.89	0.11	13.00	100	1.48
Shawnee Hills	3	11	2.83	0.22	3.00	34	0.66
Statewide	106	406	100.00	0.28	5.13	2,085	1.43

Table 15. Summary of WEASEL trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 4).

Wildlife Management Unit	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Northeast Moraine	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Mississippi Border-North	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Mississippi Border-South	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Western Prairie/Forest	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Central Sand Prairie	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Grand Prairie	2	8	50.00	0.01	1.50	11	0.02
Southern Plain	1	4	25.00	0.02	1.00	4	0.02
Wabash Border	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Shawnee Hills	1	4	25.00	0.07	1.00	4	0.07
Statewide	4	15	100.00	0.01	1.25	19	0.01

Table 16. Summary of COYOTE trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 106).

Wildlife Management Unit	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	12	46	11.32	0.49	3.33	153	1.63
Northeast Moraine	5	19	4.72	0.23	3.60	69	0.83
Mississippi Border-North	3	12	2.95	0.15	20.12	241	3.08
Mississippi Border-South	8	31	7.55	0.22	10.75	330	2.41
Western Prairie/Forest	16	61	15.09	0.43	8.50	521	3.61
Central Sand Prairie	3	11	2.83	0.28	8.67	100	2.40
Grand Prairie	40	153	37.74	0.29	7.10	1,088	2.07
Southern Plain	11	42	10.38	0.18	9.64	406	1.71
Wabash Border	3	11	2.83	0.17	4.67	54	0.80
Shawnee Hills	5	19	4.72	0.37	6.60	126	2.42
Statewide	106	406	100.00	0.28	7.60	3,089	2.11

Table 17. Summary of BADGER trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 11).

Wildlife Management Unit	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	3	11	27.27	0.12	1.33	15	0.16
Northeast Moraine	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Mississippi Border-North	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Mississippi Border-South	1	4	9.09	0.03	1.00	4	0.03
Western Prairie/Forest	1	4	9.09	0.03	1.00	4	0.03
Central Sand Prairie	2	8	18.18	0.18	1.00	8	0.18
Grand Prairie	4	15	36.36	0.03	1.25	19	0.04
Southern Plain	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Wabash Border	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Shawnee Hills	0	-	..	..	..	-	..
Statewide	11	42	100.00	0.03	1.18	50	0.03

Table 18 Summary of MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n =209).

Trapping Zone	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	Harvest Distribution (%)	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	137	525	65.6	0.64	35.68 ± 8.62	18,731	72.7	22.89
South	72	276	34.4	0.43	25.50 ± 7.98	7,036	27.3	10.95
Statewide	209	801	100.0	0.55	32.17 ± 6.31	25,766	100.0	17.64

Table 19. Summary of MINK trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 146).

Trapping Zone	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	Harvest Distribution n (%)	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	90	345	61.6	0.42	3.32 ± 0.58	1,146	55.5	1.40
South	56	214	38.4	0.33	4.29 ± 2.25	920	44.5	1.43
Statewide	146	559	100.0	0.38	3.69 ± 0.93	2,065	100.0	1.41

Table 20. Summary of RACCOON trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 307).

Trapping Zone	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	Harvest Distribution (%)	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	200	766	65.1	0.94	33.84 ± 8.13	25,931	63.1	31.69
South	107	410	34.9	0.64	37.06 ± 11.54	15,194	36.9	23.65
Statewide	307	1,176	100.0	0.81	34.96 ± 6.64	41,125	100.0	28.15

Table 21. Summary of OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 176).

Trapping Zone	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	Harvest Distribution (%)	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	123	471	61.4	0.58	12.84 ± 3.27	6,051	69.4	7.39
South	53	203	30.1	0.32	13.15 ± 3.93	2,671	30.6	4.16
Statewide	176	674	100.0	0.46	12.93 ± 2.57	8,722	100.0	5.97

Table 22. Summary of RED FOX trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 74).

Trapping Zone	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	Harvest Distribution (%)	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	46	176	62.2	0.22	2.09 ± 0.45	368	52.2	0.45
South	28	108	37.8	0.17	3.14 ± 1.14	337	47.8	0.52
Statewide	74	284	100.0	0.19	2.49 ± 0.52	705	100.0	0.48

Table 23. Summary of GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 16).

Trapping Zone	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	Harvest Distribution (%)	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	4	15	25.0	0.02	1.27 ± 0.49	19	25.0	0.02
South	12	46	75.0	0.07	1.24 ± 0.25	57	75.0	0.09
Statewide	16	61	100.0	0.04	1.26 ± 0.22	77	100.0	0.05

Table 24. Summary of BEAVER trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 178).

Trapping Zone	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	Harvest Distribution (%)	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	127	487	71.3	0.59	12.64 ± 3.30	6,150	67.4	7.52
South	51	195	28.7	0.30	15.25 ± 7.08	2,981	32.6	4.64
Statewide	178	682	100.0	0.47	13.39 ± 3.10	9,132	100.0	6.25

Table 25. Summary of SKUNK trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 106).

Trapping Zone	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	Harvest Distribution (%)	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	74	283	69.8	0.35	5.09 ± 1.67	1,445	69.3	1.77
South	32	123	30.2	0.19	5.22 ± 1.96	640	30.7	1.00
Statewide	106	406	100.0	0.28	5.13 ± 1.30	2,085	100.0	1.43

Table 26. Summary of WEASEL trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 4).

Trapping Zone	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	Harvest Distribution (%)	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	2	8	50.0	0.01	1.50 ± 0.98	11	60.0	0.01
South	2	7	50.0	0.01	1.00 ± 0.00	8	40.0	0.01
Statewide	4	15	100.0	0.01	1.25 ± 0.49	19	100.0	0.01

Table 27. Summary of COYOTE trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 106).

Trapping Zone	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	Harvest Distribution (%)	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	71	272	67.0	0.33	6.90 ± 2.21	1,878	60.8	2.29
South	35	134	33.0	0.21	9.03 ± 3.18	1,211	39.2	1.89
Statewide	106	406	100.0	0.28	7.60 ± 1.82	3,089	100.0	2.11

Table 28. Summary of BADGER trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 11).

Trapping Zone	n	Estimated Trappers	Trapper Distribution (%)	Estimated Trappers/100km <sup>2</sup>	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	Harvest Distribution n (%)	Estimated Harvest/100km <sup>2</sup>
North	10	38	90.9	0.05	1.20 ± 0.26	46	92.3	0.06
South	1	4	9.1	0.00	1.00 ± 0.00	4	7.7	0.00
Statewide	11	42	100.0	0.03	1.18 ± 0.24	50	100.0	0.03

Table 29. The number of pelts sold by successful trappers (i.e., caught ≥ 1 animal) for 11 species of furbearers in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey n (n = 630).

Species	Total Number of Pelts Sold	Pelts Sold in Illinois		Pelts Sold Outside Illinois	
		n	%	n	%
Muskrat	24,670	18,673	75.69	5,997	24.31
Mink	1,882	1,460	77.60	422	22.40
Raccoon	38,753	25,966	67.00	12,787	33.00
Opossum	4,491	2,652	59.04	1,839	40.96
Red fox	613	467	76.23	146	23.77
Gray fox	42	31	72.73	11	27.27
Beaver	8,453	4,702	55.62	3,751	44.38
Striped skunk	778	525	67.49	253	32.51
Weasel	4	4	100.00	-	0.00
Coyote	2,357	1,380	58.54	977	41.46
Badger	42	23	54.55	19	45.45
Total	82,085	55,882	68.08	26,203	31.92



Table 30. Distribution of active trappers by county trapped most in Illinois based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 356).

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

Table 31. Statewide harvest by resident Illinois trappers, 1995-2005.

Season	Muskrat	Mink	Raccoon	Opossum	Red Fox	Gray Fox
1995	68,741	3,984	68,280	17,226	1,710	235
1996	61,119	5,648	117,556	29,500	1,468	213
1997	89,781	5,615	127,737	32,418	1,391	122
1998	44,199	4,333	101,224	23,966	1,043	122
1999	33,447	3,033	51,971	12,734	1,094	99
2000	22,677	2,205	49,076	10,847	890	72
2001	54,017	4,375	92,596	13,684	1,741	121
2002	50,895	5,189	90,909	23,140	1,641	206
2003	32,767	3,857	66,783	17,771	1,421	211
2004	41,790	3,737	79,616	24,441	913	84
2005	25,766	2,065	41,125	8,722	705	77

Season	Beaver	Skunk	Weasel	Coyote	Badger	All Species
1995	6,776	2,469	32	4,338	-- <sup>a</sup>	173,791
1996	11,180	2,539	17	3,903	58	233,201
1997	16,177	2,878	71	3,250	71	279,511
1998	8,688	1,903	33	2,630	61	188,202
1999	9,704	1,138	27	5,051	27	118,325
2000	7,026	1,116	7	2,523	41	96,480
2001	11,490	2,177	47	4,258	56	184,562
2002	9,983	3,281	61	7,678	89	193,072
2003	6,987	2,531	44	6,360	111	138,843
2004	9,415	3,821	96	4,388	66	168,367
2005	9,132	2,085	19	3,089	50	92,835

<sup>a</sup>The badger was reinstated as legal game for trapping beginning with the 1996 season.

Table 32. Summary of fur hunting activities reported by trappers<sup>a</sup> in Illinois, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 630).

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	107	2441	22.81	17	9,354
Opossum	28	167	5.96	4	640
Red fox	10	19	1.90	2	73
Gray fox	1	1	1.00	0.2	4
Striped skunk	7	29	4.14	1	111
Coyote	86	555	6.45	14	2,127
All species	168 <sup>b,c</sup>	3212	19.12	27	12,308

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

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

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

Table 33. Reported sightings and harvest of gray fox during 2005-2006 season, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 585).

	n	%
Trapped gray fox	15	2
Shot gray fox	3	1
Saw gray fox	53	9
Did not see or harvest gray fox	514	88

Table 34. Reported sightings of river otter and sign during 2005-2006 season, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 586).

	n	%
Saw river otter	105	18
Saw river otter sign	102	17
Did not see river otter or sign	379	65

Table 35. Reported sightings of bobcat and sign during 2005-2006 season, based on responses to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 585).

	n	%
Saw bobcat	65	11
Saw bobcat sign	45	8
Did not see bobcat or sign	475	81

Table 36. Distribution of county of residence of active and inactive respondents to the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey (n = 630).

County	Number of trappers	County	Number of trappers	County	Number of trappers
Adams	9	Hardin	1	Morgan	9
Alexander	0	Henderson	0	Moultrie	6
Bond	9	Henry	12	Ogle	14
Boone	2	Iroquois	2	Peoria	5
Brown	4	Jackson	2	Perry	7
Bureau	14	Jasper	5	Piatt	2
Calhoun	3	Jefferson	9	Pike	6
Carroll	8	Jersey	3	Pope	2
Cass	6	JoDaviess	12	Pulaski	1
Champaign	6	Johnson	5	Putnam	2
Christian	5	Kane	13	Randolph	12
Clark	2	Kankakee	5	Richland	4
Clay	4	Kendall	6	Rock Island	12
Clinton	3	Knox	9	St. Clair	11
Coles	2	Lake	6	Saline	2
Cook	3	LaSalle	11	Sangamon	8
Crawford	7	Lawrence	6	Schuyler	2
Cumberland	3	Lee	10	Scott	1
DeKalb	13	Livingston	7	Shelby	3
DeWitt	5	Logan	6	Stark	2
Douglas	8	McDonough	12	Stephenson	10
DuPage	1	McHenry	10	Tazewell	5
Edgar	3	McLean	11	Union	2
Edwards	1	Macon	5	Vermilion	6
Effingham	11	Macoupin	9	Wabash	4
Fayette	12	Madison	11	Warren	5
Ford	2	Marion	7	Washington	4
Franklin	5	Marshall	3	Wayne	2
Fulton	24	Mason	7	White	2
Gallatin	4	Massac	4	Whiteside	24
Greene	9	Menard	3	Will	8
Grundy	1	Mercer	6	Williamson	7
Hamilton	2	Monroe	4	Winnebago	10
Hancock	6	Montgomery	6	Woodford	5

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

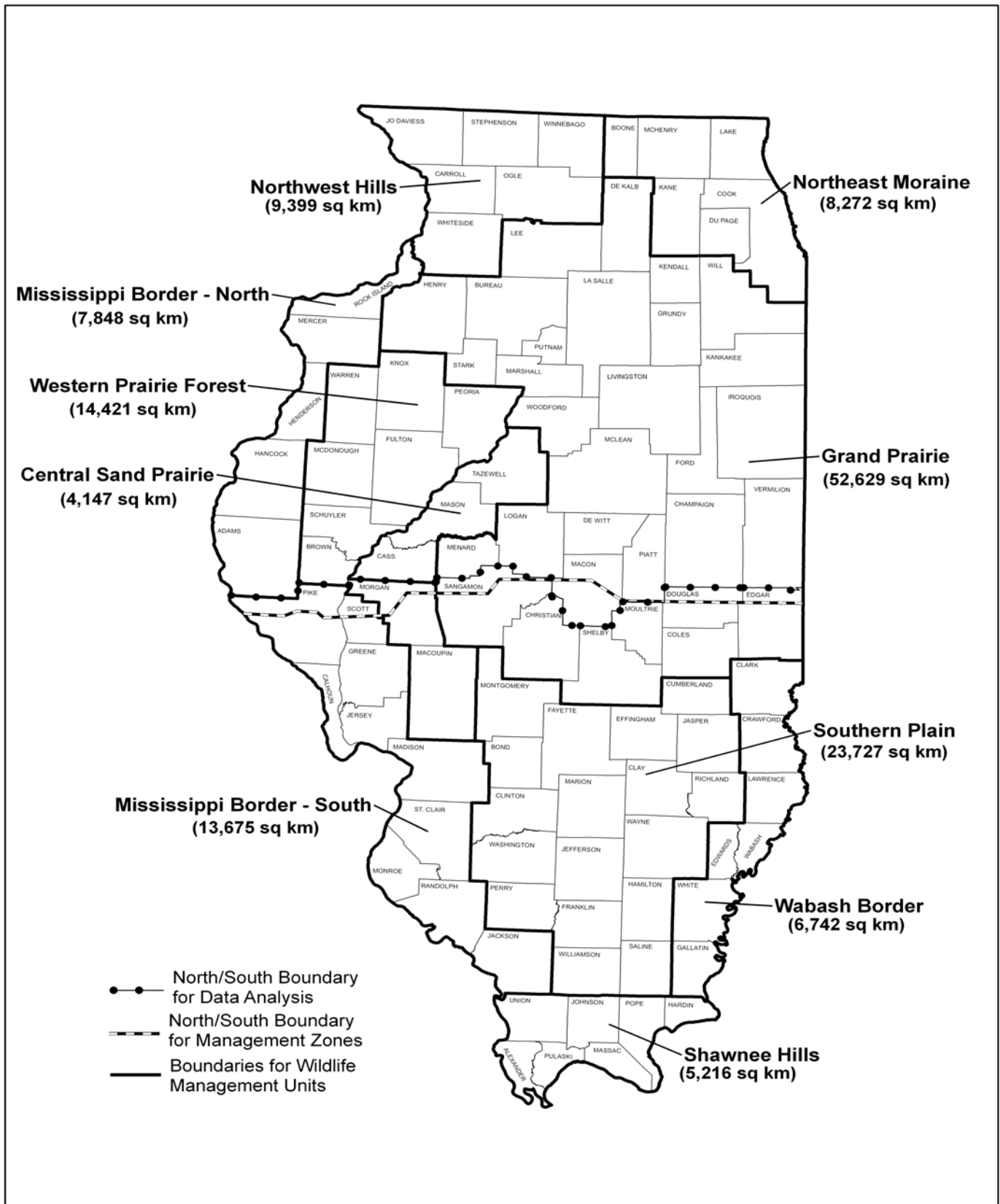


Figure 2. Distribution of days of trapping by active trappers in Illinois, 2005-2006 season (n = 356).

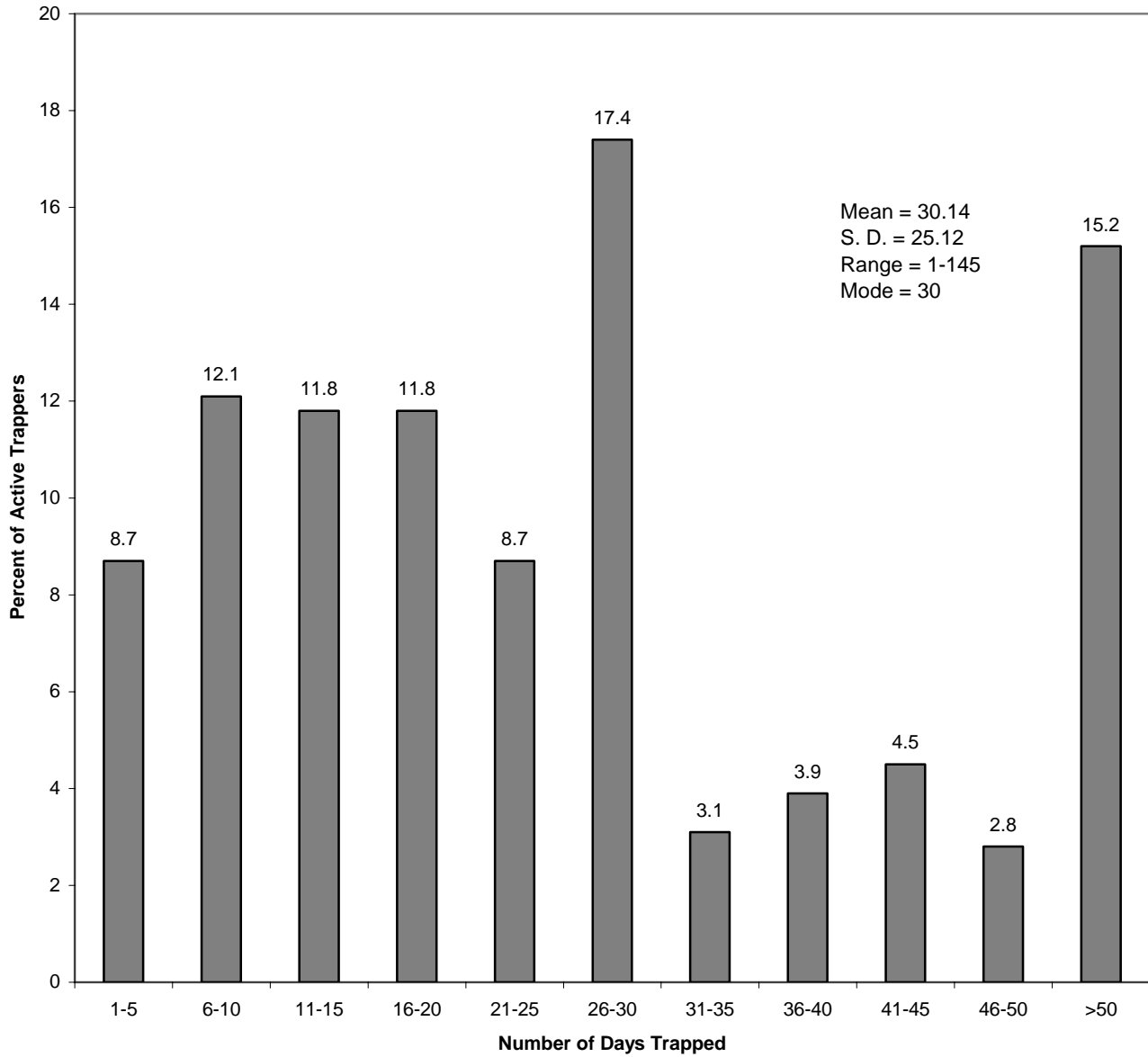


Figure 3. Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per successful raccoon trapper in Illinois, 2005-2006 season (n = 307).

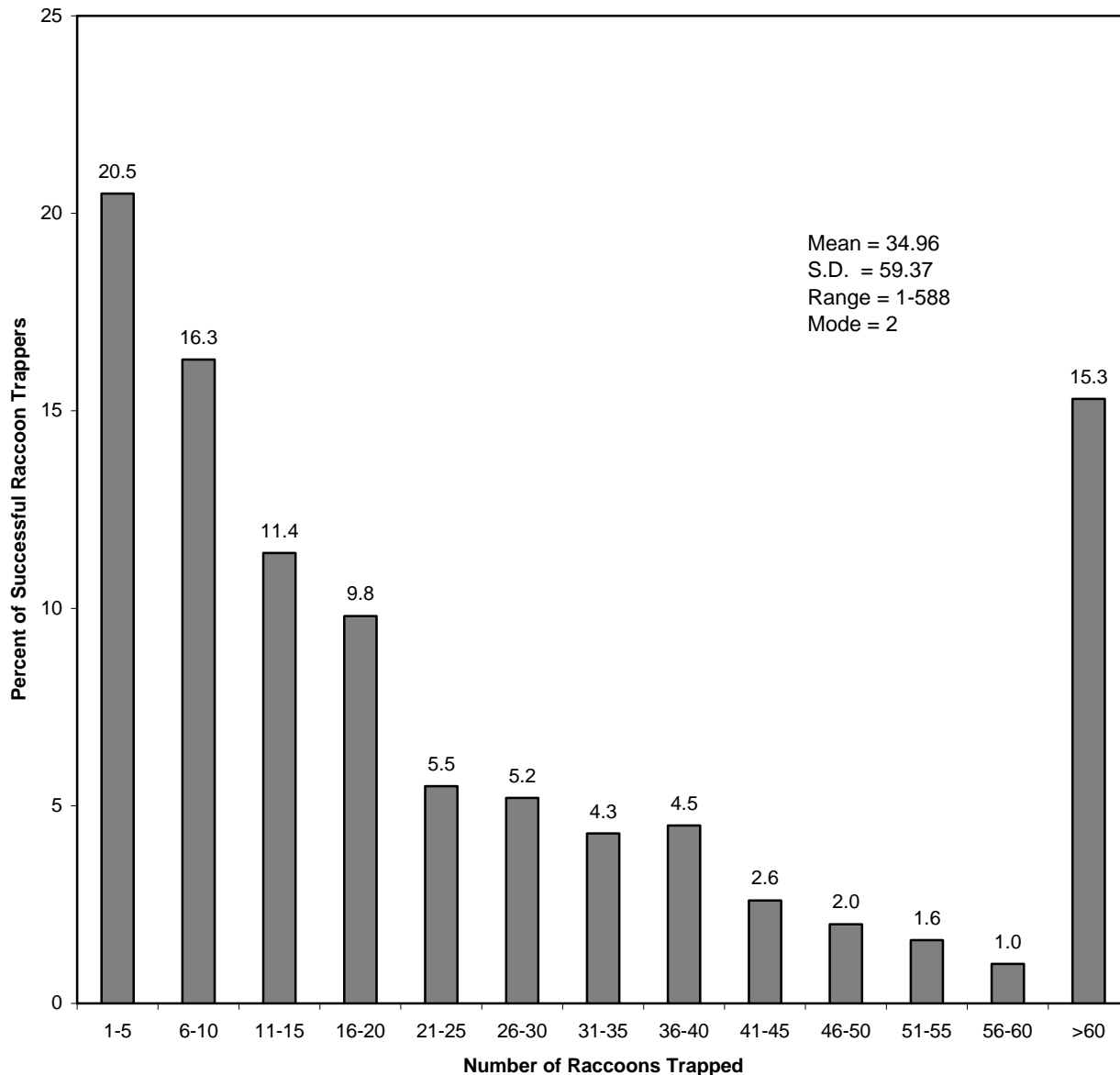


Figure 4 Distribution of the number of muskrats trapped per successful muskrat trapper in Illinois, 2005-2006 season (n = 209).

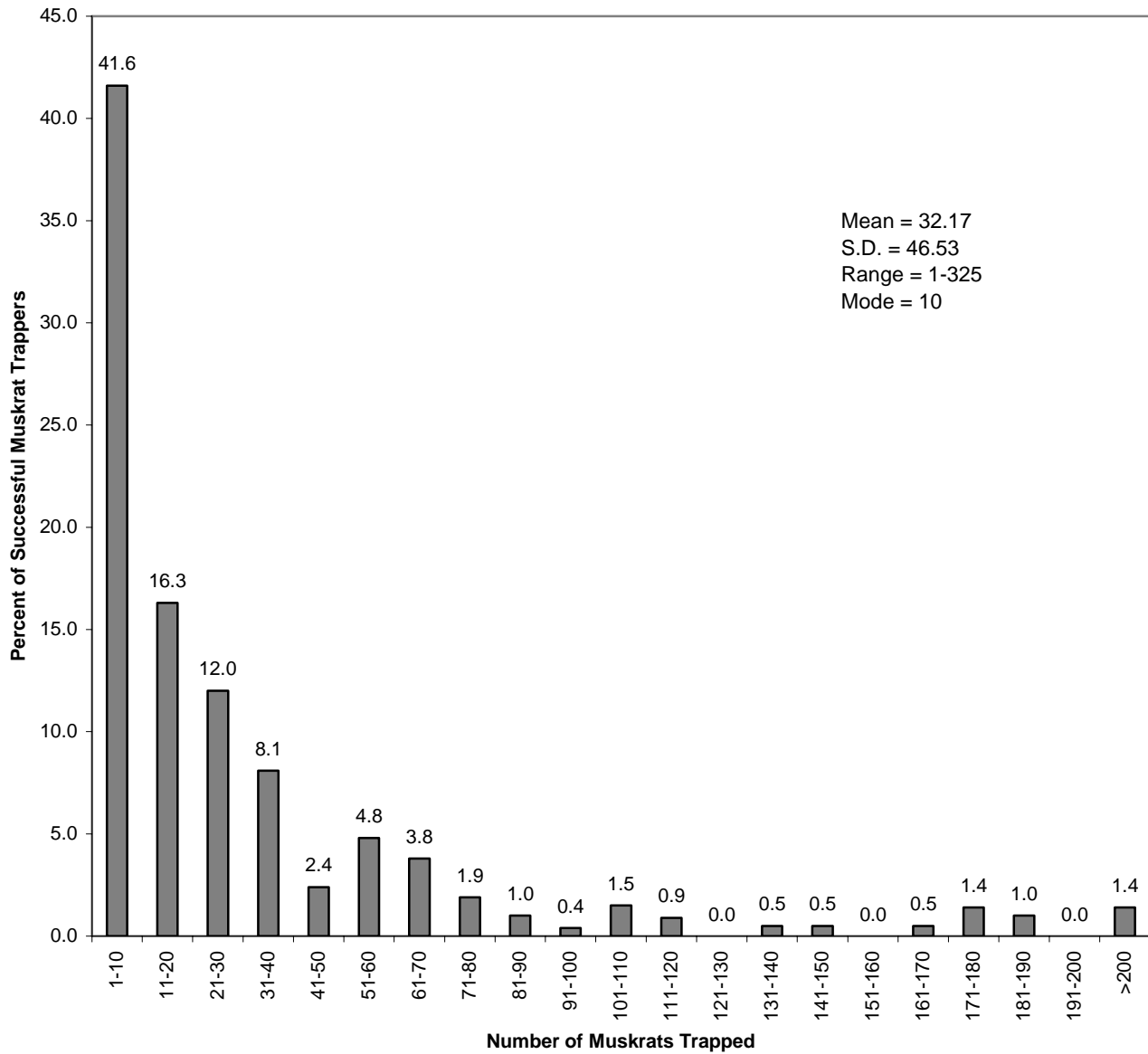
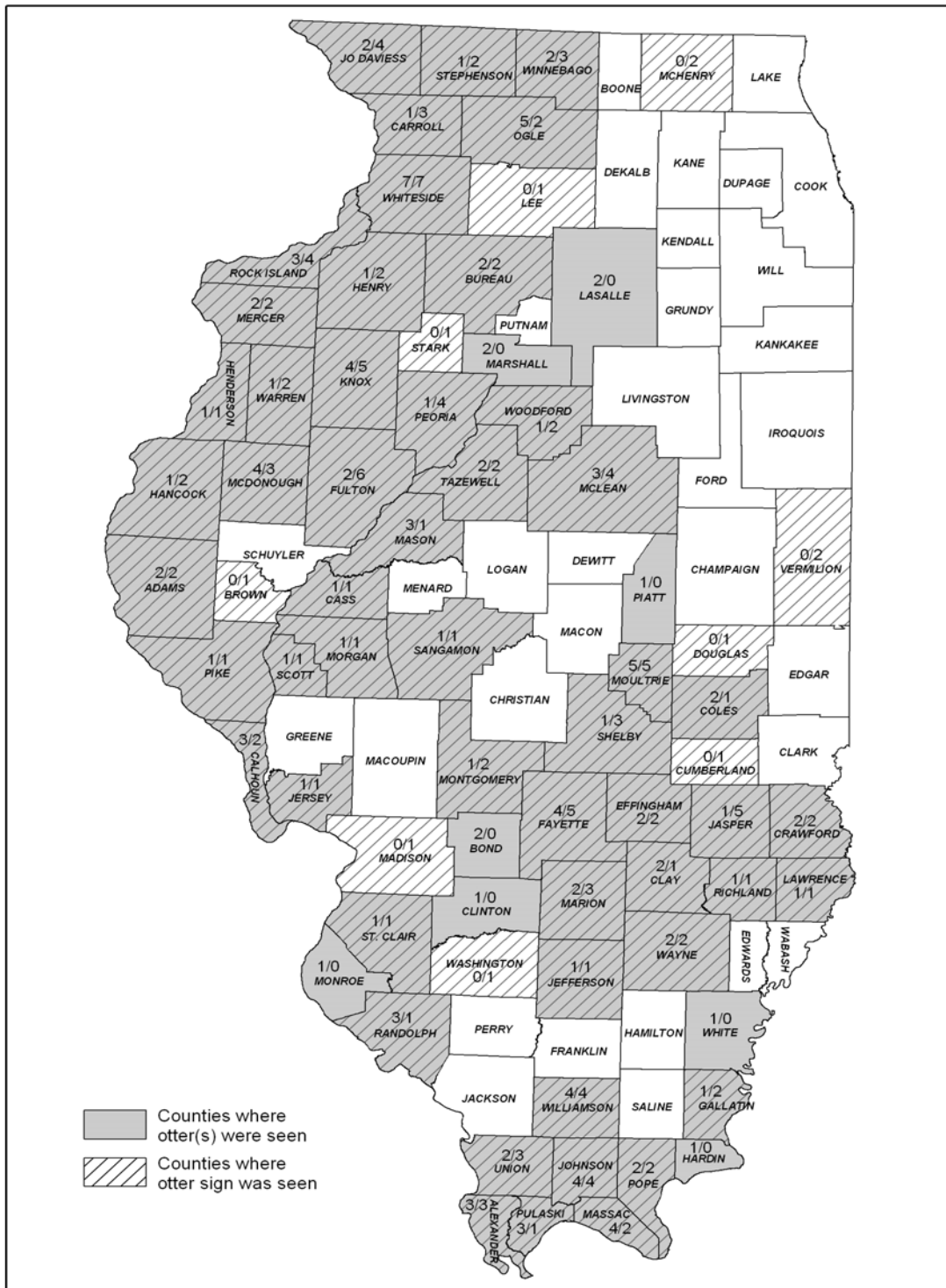






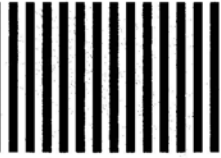
Figure 6. Illinois counties in which trappers reported observing otter(s) or their sign during the past year, 2005-2006 season. The number of reports (# sightings / # sign) is listed for each county.





Appendix A. Name and address card issued to license vendors to collect sample addresses for 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey.


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 62794-9661



**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 (2005 SERIES)**  
Please Print Plainly

Name

Address

City and State

Zip Code

County of Residence

Appendix B. Trapping activity and harvest record issued to trappers for conducting the 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey.

**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.

2005

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 NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY



Dear Illinois Trapper,

You are one of a select group of Illinois trappers asked to provide information about your trapping activities during the 2005-2006 trapping season. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire about your trapping harvest and activities in Illinois.

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.

If you are interested in the summary results of this survey, or other hunter and trapper surveys, please visit <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cwpe/hd/>. For more information about hunting and trapping in Illinois, visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/Wildlife/index.htm>.

If you have questions, please call (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

William L. Anderson  
Wildlife Harvest and Human Dimensions Research Program

1816 South Oak Street, Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA  
(217) 333-6880 Fax (217) 333-4949  
<http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu>



# ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY



Dear Illinois Trapper,

You recently received a survey questionnaire requesting information about your trapping activities during the 2005-2006 trapping season. We have not received your completed survey questionnaire at this time. If you recently returned your questionnaire, we thank you and please disregard this one.

Perhaps you misplaced the first questionnaire mailed to you. If so, we have enclosed a second one for you. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire about your trapping harvest and activities in Illinois during the 2005-2006 trapping season.

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

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire. A stamped envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

If you have questions, please call (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

William L. Anderson  
Wildlife Harvest and Human Dimensions Research Program

1816 South Oak Street, Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA  
(217) 333-6880 Fax (217) 333-4949  
<http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu>

Appendix E. Reminder postcard sent after 2005-2006 Illinois Trapper Survey mailings.



Dear Illinois Trapper,

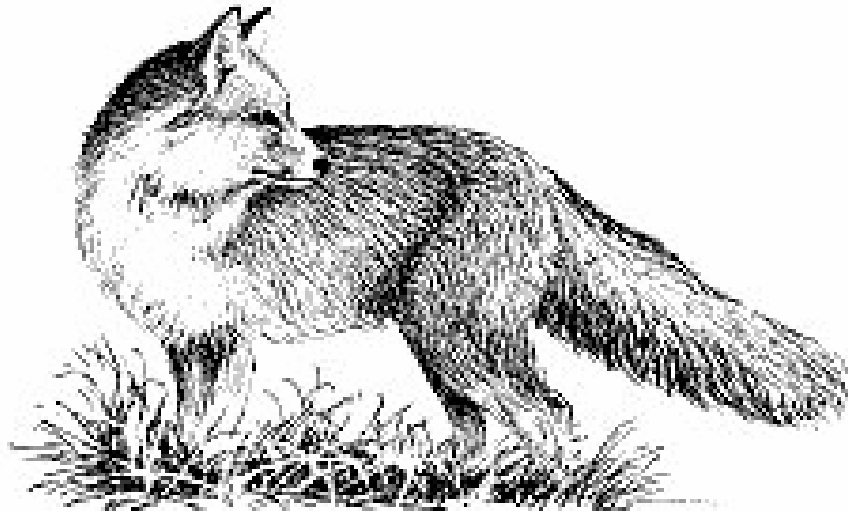
You have been selected to participate in the Illinois Trapper Survey. A survey questionnaire was recently mailed to you. We have not received your questionnaire at this time. **If you have returned the questionnaire, we thank you and please disregard this reminder. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible.** Your input is very important!

Thank you for your cooperation.



# Illinois Trapper Survey

## 2005 – 2006 Season



Your comments are welcome but please write them on a separate sheet of paper to receive proper attention.

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



ILLINOIS  
NATURAL  
HISTORY  
SURVEY

This study is funded through federal Wildlife Restoration dollars through your purchase of hunting arms and ammunition.

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.

**Section 1. Trapping Harvest.** Complete **EACH BLANK** for all species trapped in Illinois during the 2005-2006 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 2005-2006 trapping season?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes
- \_\_\_\_\_ No (Please go to **Question 5**)

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

- 2. In which county did you do **most** of your trapping? \_\_\_\_\_ county
- 3. How many days (or nights) did you have traps set? \_\_\_\_\_ days (or nights)
- 4. What was the average number of traps you set on your trapline during the 2005-2006 season? \_\_\_\_\_ traps
- 5. Did you **hunt furbearers** with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2005-2006 season?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Yes
  - \_\_\_\_\_ No

5a. If “Yes,” please give the **number** of each species taken **by hunting**.

\_\_\_\_\_ Raccoon      \_\_\_\_\_ Red Fox      \_\_\_\_\_ Gray Fox

\_\_\_\_\_ Opossum      \_\_\_\_\_ Coyote      \_\_\_\_\_ Skunk

**Section 2. Wildlife Sightings.** Please provide information on the following species. Your responses help to manage Illinois' wildlife resources.

1. Did you see a river otter or otter sign in Illinois during the 2005-2006 season?

- Yes, I saw an otter                      If "Yes," what county or counties? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes, I saw otter sign                      If "Yes," what county or counties? \_\_\_\_\_  
 No

2. Did you see a bobcat or bobcat sign in Illinois during the 2005-2006 season?

- Yes, I saw a bobcat                      If "Yes," what county or counties? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes, I saw bobcat sign                      If "Yes," what county or counties? \_\_\_\_\_  
 No

3. Did you capture, shoot, or see a gray fox in Illinois during the past year?

- Yes, I caught a gray fox                      If "Yes," what county or counties? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes, I shot a gray fox                      If "Yes," what county or counties? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes, I saw a gray fox                      If "Yes," what county or counties? \_\_\_\_\_  
 No

4. May a representative of the Department of Natural Resources or its research partners contact you for more specific information about where you saw or harvested a gray fox?

- Yes  
 No

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

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 62702-1271, (217) 782-7616 or the Officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240

**Appendix G. Furbearer trapping and hunting seasons in Illinois, 2005-2006.**

<b>FURBEARERS - HUNTING</b>			
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>DATES (inclusive) and ZONES</b>	<b>HOURS</b>	<b>LIMIT</b>
Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 5, 2005 - Feb. 10, 2006 (North); Nov. 10, 2005 - Feb. 15, 2006 (South) Closed Nov. 18, 19 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1-3 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted Except Nov. 5 (North) and Nov. 10 (South) Opens at sunrise	No Limit
Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 10, 2005 - Jan. 31, 2006 (Statewide). Closed Nov. 18, 19 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1-3 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted Except Nov. 10 Opens at sunrise	No Limit
Coyote <sup>a</sup> and Striped Skunk	Year round (Statewide). Closed Nov. 18, 19 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1-3 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting <sup>a</sup>	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset; open 24 hours during Nov. 10, 2005-Feb. 15, 2006 <sup>d,e</sup>	No Limit
<b>TRAPPING</b>			
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>DATES (inclusive) and ZONES</b>	<b>HOURS</b>	<b>LIMIT</b>
Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, Mink Muskrat, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote, Badger	Nov. 5, 2005 - Jan. 20, 2006 (North) Nov. 10, 2005 - Jan. 25, 2006 (South)	Unrestricted except opening days start at sunrise and closing days end at sunset	No Limit except for badger, which is limited to two per season in the north zone and one per season in the south zone
Beaver	Nov. 5, 2005 - March 31, 2006 (North) Nov. 10, 2005 - March 31, 2006 (South)		
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1 - Sept. 30 (Statewide)		

- <sup>a</sup> On the 2nd day of the hunting season, you may possess no more than twice the daily bag limit.
- <sup>b</sup> 1st season—April 3-7; 2nd season—April 8-13; 3rd season—April 14-19; 4th season—April 20-26; 5th season—April 27-May 4 — South  
1st season—April 10-14; 2nd season—April 15-20; 3rd season—April 21-26; 4th season—April 27-May 3; 5th season—May 4-11 — North
- <sup>c</sup> No permits required for September Canada goose seasons. See page 3 for zone information.
- <sup>d</sup> During the Archery Deer Season bow hunting hours for coyote, striped skunk, raccoon, opossum, red fox and gray fox will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
- <sup>e</sup> Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may take coyotes during firearm deer season by shotgun with slugs, muzzleloader or handgun from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.
- <sup>f</sup> No hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than 2 antlered deer during a year, including the archery, muzzleloader, and firearm seasons. For the purpose of this bag limit, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates are within the same 12-month period that begins July 1.
- <sup>g</sup> Daily bag limit is 5 in Northeast Canada Goose Zone and 2 in Southern Zone, and that portion of the North and Central Zones outside the Northeast Canada Goose Zone.

