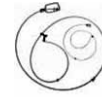




## New Jersey Furbearer Management Newsletter Fall 2014

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Upland Wildlife and Furbearer Project



### Dates to Remember-

#### Trapper Education courses are scheduled for:

Tuckahoe WMA, Lenape Farms Section (Atlantic County), October 11 and 12  
JBMDL Range 14, (Burlington County), October 23 and 26

#### **You must attend both days of the two-day class!**

Classes are held rain or shine. Bring a pencil, lunch and a pair of pliers. Remember to wear hip boots.  
*Check the Division's Hunter Education Website for updates.*

#### Trapper Conventions:

NJ Trappers Association, Space Farms in Beemerville (Sussex County) – October 5  
NJ Fur Harvesters, Atsion State Park, Shamong (Burlington County) – November 2

### Remember:

- To trap or use a snare a person must have first passed a Fish and Wildlife-approved trapper education course which included use of snares.
- Any person must be at least 12 years of age in order to take the NJ Trapper Education course.
- TAKE A KID TRAPPING!

### In this issue:

Beaver and Otter Application  
2013-14 Trapper Harvest Survey results  
Bobcat Update

### The Beaver and Otter Permit Application period is October 1 thru 31, 2014.

The 2014-2015 Beaver/Otter Trapping Season Booklet is available online at the Division's webpage.

#### Please remember:

- Successful applicants must claim their permit between November 10 and prior to 11:59 PM on Monday, December 1.
- Unclaimed permits will be posted on the website by late afternoon Dec. 3.
- After close of business, Dec. 3, unclaimed permits will be returned to the quota and made available for over-the-counter sale at participating license agents or online beginning at 10 AM on Thursday, Dec. 4.



## 2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest Survey

A **2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest Survey** was mailed to 1327 licensed trappers requesting harvest, recreational and socio-economic information for the 2013-14 trapping season. The mean age of licensed trappers as of November 15, 2013 was 47.0 years. Resident trappers are predominantly male (96.9 percent), and live in every county of the state with a tendency to reside in rural areas.

### Age class of 2013 NJ licensed trappers licensed

Age Class	# of Licensed Trappers in 2013	Percent of licensed trappers in 2013	Age Class	# of Licensed Trappers in 2013	Percent of licensed trappers in 2013
<16	46	3.5%	45 to 49	170	12.8%
16 to 19	46	3.5%	50 to 54	171	12.9%
20 to 24	39	2.9%	55 to 59	135	10.2%
25 to 29	76	5.7%	60 to 64	113	8.5%
30 to 34	95	7.2%	65 +	199	15.0%
35 to 39	91	6.9%	Unknown	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>				<b>1,327</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Residence of 2013 licensed trappers by NJ County or State of Residence.

County	TRAPPING, RES*	TRAPPING, NR	TRAPPING, YOUTH	TOTAL	Percent of 2013-14 database
Atlantic	75	0	0	<b>75</b>	5.7%
Bergen	27	0	0	<b>27</b>	2.0%
Burlington	84	0	6	<b>90</b>	6.8%
Camden	43	0	2	<b>45</b>	3.4%
Cape May	48	0	4	<b>52</b>	3.9%
Cumberland	149	0	6	<b>155</b>	11.7%
Essex	9	0	1	<b>10</b>	0.7%
Gloucester	87	0	3	<b>90</b>	6.8%
Hudson	1	0	0	<b>1</b>	0.1%
Hunterdon	58	0	2	<b>60</b>	4.5%
Mercer	28	0	1	<b>29</b>	2.2%
Middlesex	51	0	1	<b>52</b>	3.9%
Monmouth	47	0	1	<b>48</b>	3.6%
Morris	53	0	3	<b>56</b>	4.2%
Ocean	81	0	5	<b>86</b>	6.5%
Passaic	49	0	0	<b>49</b>	3.7%
Salem	112	0	5	<b>117</b>	8.8%
Somerset	29	0	0	<b>29</b>	2.2%
Sussex	134	0	7	<b>141</b>	10.6%
Union	8	0	0	<b>8</b>	0.6%
Warren	90	0	5	<b>95</b>	7.2%
<b>NEW YORK</b>	0	2	1	<b>3</b>	0.2%
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	0	5	4	<b>9</b>	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1263</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1327</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Summary of participation and harvest based on 2013-14 Trapper Survey

Species	Number of 2013-14 active respondents	Estimated number of active trappers	Mean years of experience	Mean days active	Estimated trap-nights	Reported* (or estimated) capture
Beaver	57	171	10.4	16.4	12,641	594*
Coyote	69	207	5.7	40.9	234,718	194*
Gray fox	32	96	19.9	28.2	80,907	234
Mink	79	237	18.6	28.7	168,529	1,460
Muskrat	146	438	27.3	23.6	317,795	26,071
Nutria	0	0				0
Opossum	67	204	15.1	37.6	94,590	1,124
Raccoon	185	555	19.3	34.2	333,827	9,647
Red fox	155	465	15.3	43.2	726,777	6,871
River otter	19	57	11.7	10.6	1,799	43*
Skunk	36	108	14.6	24.5	43,819	270
Weasel	2	6	1.0	25.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>23.2</b>			<b>46,511</b>

\*\*Actual harvest total, not estimated

### Summary of Fur Values based on 2013-14 Trapper Survey

Species	Estimated value (\$ US)	Average pelt price (\$ US)	% Trappers	Rec days	Trap-nights to harvest	% Resp trapping resident county
Beaver	\$ 12,034	\$ 20.26	20.4%	2,809	21.3	68%
Coyote	\$ 3,633	\$ 18.73	24.6%	8,456	1,209.9	80%
Fisher		-	0.0%	0		
Gray fox	\$ 5,368	\$ 22.96	11.4%	2,701	346.0	85%
Mink	\$ 25,264	\$ 17.31	28.2%	6,787	112.0	81%
Muskrat	\$ 218,061	\$ 8.36	52.1%	10,327	12.2	82%
Nutria		-	0.0%	0		
Opossum	\$ 2,991	\$ 2.66	23.9%	7,547	84.1	80%
Raccoon	\$ 106,464	\$ 11.04	66.1%	18,941	34.6	86%
Red fox	\$ 167,612	\$ 24.40	55.4%	20,057	105.8	84%
River otter	\$ 2,723	\$ 63.33	6.8%	606	41.8	67%
Skunk	\$ 1,439	\$ 5.33	12.9%	2,646	162.4	82%
Weasel			0.7%	150.0		100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 545,589</b>			<b>81,026</b>		

### Expenditures and Investment

Active survey respondents spent an average \$417 on items such as gasoline, food, clothing, trapping equipment and supplies (but excluding license and permit fees) during 2013-14, and had an average total investment of \$5,163. Inactive survey respondents spent an average \$155 during 2013-14, and had an average total investment of \$2,384. Total investment of all trappers is estimated at \$4.4 million. The NJDFW received \$36,959 in revenue from license sales and \$5,073 in permit sales and application fees during calendar year 2013 (total revenue \$42,147).



## **Bobcat Update**

The bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) is a medium sized cat about two feet tall (larger than a domestic cat, but much smaller than a mountain lion or cougar). Adult females generally weigh between 18-25 pounds while adult males may weigh as much as 35 pounds. Their fur ranges from yellowish- to reddish-brown and bears markings that vary from “tabby” stripes to heavy spotting. Their ears are slightly tufted and the short, bobbed tail (3-7”) is black at the tip.

A recent range-wide status assessment conducted by researchers at Cornell University and the University of Montana reported that bobcat numbers are on the rise. Even in New Jersey where bobcats are currently listed as an endangered species, participants in the Endangered and Nongame Species Program’s (ENSP) recent Delphi Review felt the State’s population has increased significantly since 1982.

Since January 1, 2005 ENSP staff has collected over 200 bobcat scat samples from 83 unique individuals in addition to documenting 50 motor vehicle kills and 36 incidental trap-related captures. Over 80% of reported mortalities occurred during the fall and winter months (Oct-Mar), perhaps a result of the increased home range of bobcats during this time. An expanding home range increases the likelihood of a vehicle collision on our busy and abundant roadways, and of course this period overlaps with our recreational trapping seasons.

Until such time as the bobcat is removed from the Endangered list, it remains exactly that – Endangered. **Motorists that kill a bobcat may not possess the carcass and should**

**report the incident to the Division by calling (908) 638-4127.** Trappers are reminded that they may not intentionally take, kill, or attempt to take or kill a bobcat in New Jersey at any time. Bobcats legally harvested in other U.S. states or Canadian provinces may be possessed and/or sold provided they are affixed with a CITES tag from the state/province of harvest.

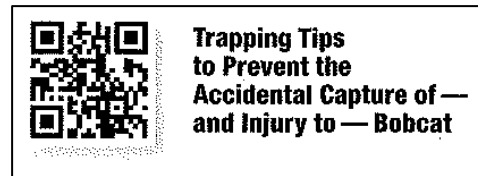
**Trappers finding a bobcat in a trap legally set for another furbearer should call the Division's Trapper Response Team as soon as possible by calling (877) 927-6337.**

This will provide the Division a valued opportunity to interact with trappers and collect additional bobcat data. If appropriate, the Trapper Response Team technician that returns your call will:

- Meet you on your trapline to assess the bobcat's condition.
- Take a DNA sample and affix an ear tag
- Assist in releasing the captured bobcat.

The technician will also ask you a few brief questions. The Division recommends that you make no attempt to release a live bobcat unless instructed to do so by the responding technician.

By now, you may have noticed the advertisement at the bottom of page 73 in the August 2014 *Hunting and Trapping Digest* (and you'll see more such ads in upcoming Digests). Those that are technologically challenged or just don't own a smartphone may be wondering, "What's a QR code"? Well, QR is abbreviated from Quick Response and a QR code consists of black modules arranged in a square grid on a white background which can be read by an imaging device (like a smartphone). This particular QR code takes the smartphone user to a website containing some helpful suggestions to avoid the incidental capture of bobcat and ways to minimize injury to a bobcat should one find its way into your set.



Ways to avoid incidental bobcat capture include:

- Correctly interpreting canine vs. feline tracks [size (2.5" vs. 1.5" in length), claw marks (usually not present in felines), shape (oval vs. circular), and the 'X' test – you can't make an X between the first and last digits without crossing the foot pad in a feline track as you can in a canine track];



Coyote  
2 1/2 long  
1 1/2 wide



Bobcat  
1 1/2 long  
1 3/8 wide

- Using the appropriate loop size in your cable restraint set for the target species
- Avoiding the use of bait if trapping an area with abundant bobcat sign.

Ways to minimize injury to bobcats that are incidentally trapped include:

- Using a relaxing-type lock (i.e., one that releases constriction pressure when the animal stops struggling, as recommended by Trapper Education and commonly used on most cable restraints),
- Adding additional swivels
- Checking traplines early in the morning
- Avoiding situations where animals might accidentally hang themselves or become entangled in woody vegetation
- Considering the addition of an in-line spring to the cable restraint.

You might also consider:

- Inspecting cables for kinks – a kink can prevent a relaxing lock from relaxing, so replace any kinked cable restraints with new sets.
- Increasing the stop distance – a stop located 6” from the end of the cable creates a 1.91” diameter circle – the circle diameter will increase only 0.08” for every 0.25” the stop is from the cable end – canine skulls range from 2.75” (gray fox) to 4” (coyote) so theoretically, deer stops 7.5”, 8.5” or 11.5” from the cable end should still hold gray fox, red fox and coyote, respectively.

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***Please report the capture of any bobcat!***  
***Call: 877-WARNDEP (877-927-6337)***





***Please Remember to Report Your Coyotes!***

*Coyotes harvested by any method must be reported to a New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Regional Law Enforcement office within 24 hours.*

**Regional NJ Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Office phone numbers:**

Northern Region Office 908-735-8240

Central Region Office 609-259-2120

Southern Region Office 856-629-0555

**New Jersey Fishers**

There haven't been any fishers reportedly taken by New Jersey trappers - at least not yet. Reports of road-killed and of box-trapped "fishers" have been received however and the box-trapped "fishers" were examined in the trap. Thus far the reported box-trapped "fishers" have turned out to be either mink or weasel. The road-kills turned out to be mink, usually big males.

Photos of fishers have been taken over the last few years; several by trail cameras in northern Sussex County and one photographed in a tree in northern Warren County.



***Please report any fisher captures!***

***Call: 877-WARNDEP (877-927-6337)***