

North Carolina Furbearer Management Newsletter



Results from 2015-2016 Furbearer Trapping Season

Information on average pelt prices is estimated by using information provided by North Carolina Fur Dealers, fur auctions, and NAFA auction results.

Species	Average Pelt Price 14-15	Average Pelt Price 15-16	% Price Change from prior year	2014-15 Harvest	2015-16 Harvest
Beaver	\$9.82	\$8.71	-11%	10,382	9,344
Mink	\$8.06	\$6.45	-20%	237	161
Muskrat	\$4.48	\$2.41	-46%	7,392	2,841
Nutria	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,166	1,461
Otter	\$35.07	\$19.08	-46%	2,102	1,254
Bobcat	\$41.39	\$28.51	-31%	1,435	1,014
Coyote	\$8.27	\$17.08	107%	7,611	7,645
Gray Fox	\$15.74	\$11.31	-28%	5,001	4,177
Red Fox	\$15.70	\$9.14	-42%	1,658	2,041
Opossum	\$1.49	\$0.15	-90%	6,423	7,149
Raccoon	\$3.86	\$3.32	-14%	12,583	9,365
Skunk	\$3.80	\$3.25	-14%	709	487
Weasel	\$0.25	\$1.17	368%	2	2

For more results, see page 7.

Trapper Educational Opportunities

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the North Carolina Trappers Association, offers free Trapper Education Courses. Courses are often offered throughout the year in several wildlife districts. In addition to learning trapping regulations, and the basics of trapping techniques, fur handling, and safety, this course qualifies for reciprocity with other states that have mandatory trapper education in order to purchase a trapping license.

To find a trapper educational course in your area, go to www.ncwildlife.org/trapped



Three-day Trappers College will be offered in 2017!

The Trappers College will be March 10-12th, 2017 at the Eastern 4-H Center near Columbia, NC in Tyrrell County. This trapping training workshop is primarily field oriented and most of the time is spent in the field setting traps, learning about traps and equipment, learning about habitat, animal habits, and considerations that will help to improve your catches. Additionally, there is time spent addressing trap modification, fur handling, and animal damage control.



A trapper education instructor and student heading out to check the trapline at the Trappers College.



This college will qualify as a Wildlife Damage Control Agent recertification option for agents whose certification expires in 2017!

The deadline for registration is December 31, 2016!
Discounted registration ends Dec. 1, 2016!

For more information on the Trappers College and other trapper education courses contact:

Todd Menke, NCTA Education Coordinator
 E-mail: minkster1971@gmail.com

Advanced Coyote Trapping Workshop

The North Carolina Trappers Association will be offering three hands-on coyote trapping workshops this fall! You will learn about:

- Coyote biology
- Traps/anchors/pan covers
- Dirthole variations
- Understanding signs/habitats
- Laws and regulations
- The when and why of:
 - Flat/post sets
 - Blind/multiple sets
 - Lures/baits/urines
 - Peat moss/cover hulls

The dates and locations are:

- October 22nd, 2016 in Creedmor
- October 29th, 2016 in New London
- November 12th, 2016 in Lawndale



To learn more and to sign up, go to nctrapper.org and click on "Education"

In 2017, the NCTA will offer more species-specific trapping workshops. Stay tuned!

Skulls and Carcasses Wanted

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Furbearer Team
Is interested in collecting the following:



Bobcat Skulls
Otter Skulls
Spotted Skunk Carcasses
Muskrat Carcasses

As in recent years, we'll collect bobcat and otter teeth to monitor the age structure of the harvest age structure. We're hoping to collect a few muskrat carcasses from watersheds throughout North Carolina to test for diseases, heavy metals, and pharmaceuticals to try to screen for any red flags that may impact populations.

Additionally, we're hoping to obtain carcasses of spotted skunks to collect locations and tissue samples, including genetic samples, to increase our knowledge of this elusive furbearer species

The main way to tell the difference between a Spotted Skunk and a Striped Skunk is that the head of the Striped Skunk possesses a white inverted triangular patch above the nose (see arrow in picture below).



Projects such as these are important, as they help us monitor populations and improve our knowledge of N.C. furbearers. We feel this information will help us maintain trapping for future generations! Thank you in advance!

Contacts for this project are:

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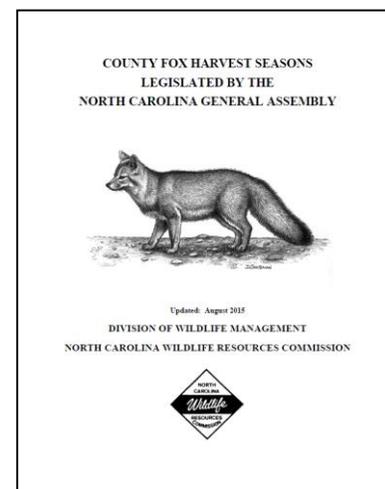
Fox Trapping Seasons

As most of you know, only the General Assembly, not the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, has the authority to allow fox trapping in a county through passage of a local law.

During the 2016 short session of the North Carolina General Assembly, no new local laws were passed regarding fox trapping.

There are 41 counties with fox trapping seasons & 85 counties with fox hunting seasons. For information on current fox hunting and trapping seasons in North Carolina go to:

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/foxseasons> and download our publication on fox hunting and trapping seasons.



Tagging Requirements



Hunters and trappers have up to 30 days after the close of the season to tag bobcat, foxes and otters.

In addition, no tags will be shipped from the Wildlife Resources Commission 23 consecutive days after the close of the season.

The last day to have tags mailed to you is **March 23rd, 2017!**

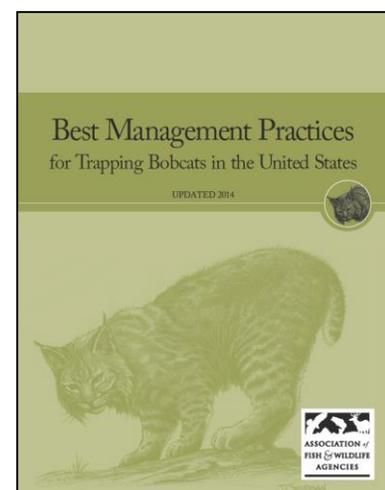
To order your tags, call 888-248-6834.

Trapping Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The purpose of the trapping BMPs process is to scientifically evaluate traps and trapping systems for capturing furbearers. BMPs are intended to inform people about traps and trapping systems considered to be state-of-the-art in animal welfare, efficiency, selectivity, and practicality. And the BMPs explain how some existing traps can be modified (where necessary) to enhance animal welfare.

The BMP publications serve as a guide to inform trappers about trap-types they should consider using for capturing a specific furbearer, including bobcats, coyotes, beaver and raccoons!

All furbearers in North Carolina now have their own BMP document, which can be found at: www.ncwildlife.org/bmp



Coyote Management Workshops

In July and August of 2016, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission conducted four Coyote Management Workshops across the state.

The purpose of these workshops was to teach the basics of coyote biology and behavior, basic trapping techniques to address problem coyotes, practical non-lethal methods to prevent and reduce conflicts with coyotes, and the laws and regulations on coyotes.



We also provided information to participants about the contacting a licensed trapper during the regulated trapping season:

ncwildlife.org/Trapping/Contact-a-Licensed-Trapper



We plan on hosting more coyote management workshops in 2017.

Information on upcoming workshops will be provided in the spring Furbearer newsletter, as well as ncwildlife.org/coyote and click "Have a Problem?"

Phone numbers of interest

Big Game Harvest Reporting
(800) I-GOT-ONE
(800) 446-8663

Violations Reporting
(800) 662-7137
(919) 707-0040 (in Raleigh area)
(800)662-7137 (TTY machine for people with hearing disabilities)

Regulation Information
(919) 707-0030

License Information
(919) 707-0391

License Purchases by credit card
(888) 2HUNTFISH
(888) 248-6834

Wildlife Management Division
(919) 707-0050

Selling your Furs

While the number of local fur buyers has declined over the past 20 years, there has actually been an increase in where you can sell your fur and where you can have it picked up for shipment to the fur auction houses!



NC fur buyer, Kevin Myers, inspects otter pelts at the Marshall Fur

To find where you can sell your fur, we have a “Selling Fur” section on our website. It has information on fur dealers, fur pick-up schedules & locations, and fur auctions.

Go to www.ncwildlife.org/sellingfur



NAFA has a pick-up site at the Marshall Fur sale. These furs are bagged and ready for shipment.

Public Hearings Scheduled!

The Commission has been charged with managing North Carolina’s wildlife resources since 1947. Setting forth rules is one means by which we manage those resources and we rely on the public’s cooperation and assistance in this endeavor. Thus, we urge you to participate in these public hearings.

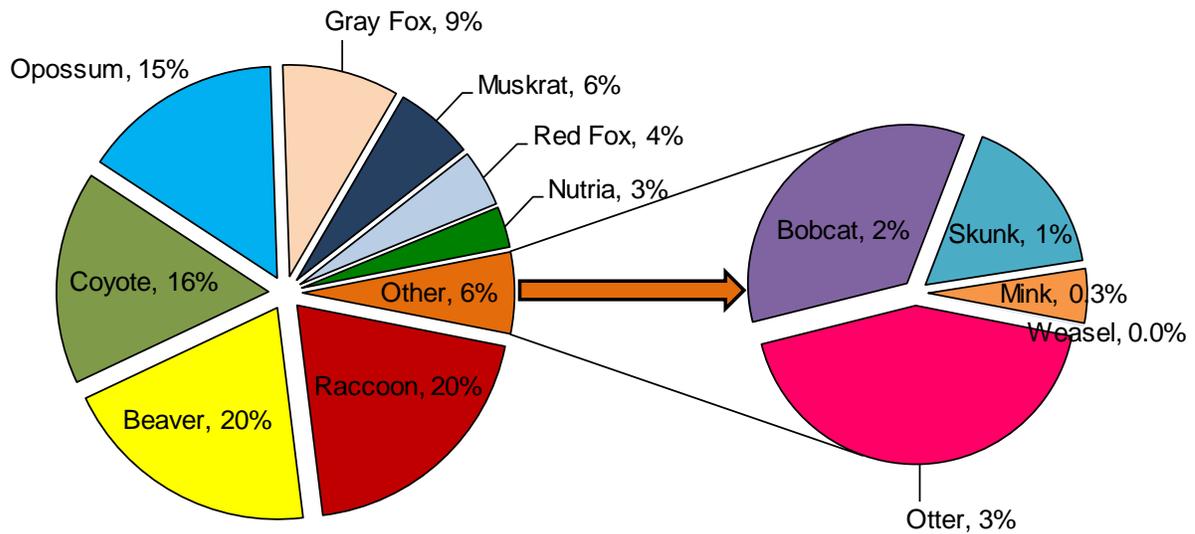
Proposed regulations are posted on our website, www.ncwildlife.org, in January. If you can’t make the public hearing, you can submit comments on the website or e-mail your comments on proposed regulations to: regulations@ncwildlife.org



NCWRC public hearing in District 9.

Date	District	City	Location
January 10, 2017	4	Dublin	Bladen Community College
January 11, 2017	5	Graham	Southern Alamance High School
January 12, 2017	6	Norwood	South Stanly High School
January 17, 2017	9	Clyde	Haywood Community College
January 18, 2017	8	Morganton	Western Piedmont Community College
January 19, 2017	7	Elkin	Elkin High School
January 24, 2017	1	Edenton	Swain Auditorium
January 25, 2017	2	New Bern	Craven Community College
January 26, 2017	3	Rocky Mount	Nash Community College

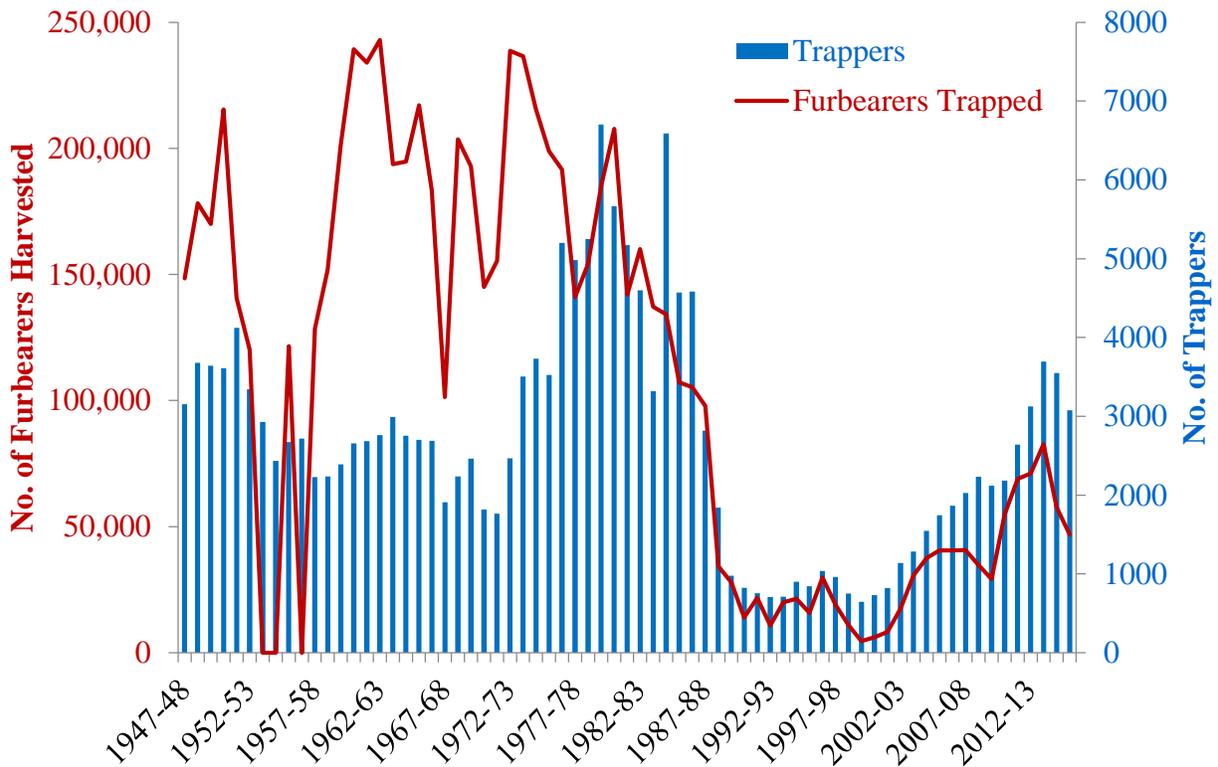
Composition of the 2015-16 Furbearer Harvest



2015-16 Regional Furbearer Harvest

Species	Furbearer Management Regions		
	Coastal	Piedmont	Mountain
Beaver	5,375	3,336	545
Bobcat	582	232	190
Coyote	2,773	3,900	906
Gray Fox	2,041	1,953	141
Mink	68	16	77
Muskrat	1,437	798	604
Nutria	1,391	48	0
Raccoon	4,434	3,425	1,349
Red Fox	932	882	216
River Otter	787	340	104
Skunk	64	280	139
Virginia Opossum	4,168	2,047	832
Weasels	2	0	0
Total	24,054	17,259	4,916
Percent of harvest	52%	37%	11%

Number of Licensed Trappers and Number of Harvested Furbearers



During the 2015-16 season, there were 3,076 licensed trappers, a 13% decline in license sales compared to the 2014-15 season. An estimated 46,941 furbearers were harvested, a 19% decline from the previous season.

Your Furbearer Team!

We are here to serve the wildlife resource and you! Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions, comments, or to participate in our cooperator programs!

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