

TRAPPING HARVEST STATISTICS

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2008 TRAPPER HARVEST SURVEY

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INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Research Surveys and Statistics unit annually conducts a survey of trapper license holders. Annual harvest estimates from survey data provide the basis for future trapping regulations and season structure.

METHODS

The Research Surveys and Statistics unit requests a list of all active trapper license holders from the Electronic License System database in late February. The sample consisted of all valid Regular, Junior and Non-resident Trapper License holders. For the 2008-09 trapping season there were 5,606 Resident Regular Trappers, 464 Resident Junior Trappers, 817 Resident Senior Trappers, 133 Lifetime Trappers, and 7 Nonresident (MN landowners) Trappers surveyed. Of the 7,027 valid licenses, 6,203 had usable addresses for purposes of the survey.

Trappers that returned the survey questionnaire within three weeks were marked returned and eliminated from follow-up mailings. Follow-up mailings were sent to non-respondents at intervals of three weeks. There were three follow-up mailings to non-respondents.

Completed and returned questionnaires were checked for completeness, consistency, and biological practicability. Cards were marked with numeric county codes corresponding to the trapper's written information. Data from each usable card was converted to an electronic database. Data were checked for errors, duplicate responses, and /or missing data. The following is a list of assumptions made in data coding:

- 1) If an individual checked the box indicating (s)he did not trap, but harvest information was provided, it was assumed that the individual did trap.
- 2) If a range was given for "number of days trapped" or "number of animals harvested", the median of the range, rounded to the nearest even integer was recorded.
- 3) If a trapper indicated spending time trapping for a species, but left "number trapped" blank, the # trapped was entered as missing data.
- 4) If a trapper indicated taking a species, but left "number of days trapped" blank, then "number of days trapped" was recorded as missing data.
- 5) If more than one county was indicated for "county trapped in most", the first county listed was recorded. However, if the several counties listed were indicated to apply to all species trapped, then counties were recorded in sequential order in relation to species hunted.
- 6) If "county trapped in most" was left unanswered or not legible, the county was recorded as missing data.

Data from all usable cards were tabulated and statistically analyzed by the St. Paul staff, using SAS statistical analysis software programs.

RESULTS

Attached are the survey results for Harvest Statewide and by License type, in tabular form (Tables 1 – 5).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

J. Giudice, MNDNR Biometrics Unit analyzed all data for this report.

Table 1. Trapper response to mail surveys, 1988-83 through 2008-09.

Year	Number mailed	Number not delivered	Delivered questionnaires <u>completed and returned</u>	
			Number	Percent
1982-83	925	28	794	88.5
1983-84	770	10	663	87.2
1984-85	556	9	495	90.5
1985-86	581	13	506	89.1
1986-87	582	8	514	89.5
1987-88	721	11	607	85.5
1988-89	852	25	727	87.9
1989-90	3,302	120	2,804	88.1
1990-91	2,294	102	1,875	85.5
1991-92	2,643	149	2,062	82.7
1992-93	2,080	76	1,681	83.9
1993-94	2,828	100	2,194	80.4
1994-95	2,382	76	1,876	81.5
1995-96	3,244	118	2,467	80.3
1996-97	4,071	132	3,017	76.6
1997-98	3,500	96	2,629	77.2
1998-99	3,900	117	2,878	76.4
1999-00	3,110	74	2,313	76.2
2000-01	5,262	146	3,941	77.0
2001-02	5,482	127	4,132	78.6
2002-03	5,655	210	4,148	76.0
2003-04	5,812	197	4,234	75.4
2004-05	6,267	235	4,547	75.4
2005-06	6,060	88	4,396	73.6
2006-07	8,508	139	5,835	69.9
2007-08	6,342	104	4,326	69.9
2008-09	6,203	86	4,166	68.1

Table 2. Use of trapper licenses, 1996-97 through 2008-09.

		Return from mail survey	Projections from license sales
1996-97	Trapped	2,505 (84.8%)	5,660
	Did not trap	<u>450 (15.2%)</u>	<u>1,015</u>
		2,955 (100.0%)	6,675 ^a
1997-98	Trapped	2,310 (88.6%)	6,198
	Did not trap	<u>296 (11.4%)</u>	<u>798</u>
		2606 (100.0%)	6,996 ^a
1998-99	Trapped	2,398 (88.6%)	5,541
	Did not trap	<u>480 (16.7%)</u>	<u>1,111</u>
		2,878 (100.0%)	6,652 ^a
1999-00	Trapped	1,927 (83.5%)	4,122
	Did not trap	<u>381 (16.5%)</u>	<u>814</u>
		2,308 (100.0%)	4,936 ^a
2000-01	Trapped	2,897 (75.9%)	4,051
	Did not trap	<u>920 (24.1%)</u>	<u>1,286</u>
		3,817 (100.0%)	5,337 ^a
2001-02	Trapped	3,332 (81.5%)	4,510
	Did not trap	<u>754 (18.5%)</u>	<u>1,024</u>
		4,086 (100.0%)	5,534 ^a
2002-03	Trapped	3,344 (80.6%)	4,615
	Did not trap	<u>804 (19.4%)</u>	<u>1,111</u>
		4,148 (100.0%)	5,726 ^a
2003-04	Trapped	3,412 (81.1%)	4,737
	Did not trap	<u>793 (18.9%)</u>	<u>1,104</u>
		4,205 (100.0%)	5,841 ^a
2004-05	Trapped	3,697 (81.9%)	5,136
	Did not trap	<u>815 (18.1%)</u>	<u>1,135</u>
		4,512 (100.0%)	6,271 ^a
2005-06	Trapped	3,495 (80.0%)	4,930
	Did not trap	<u>875 (20.0%)</u>	<u>1,233</u>
		4,370 (100.0%)	6,163 ^a
2006-07	Trapped	4,782 (81.9%)	7,008
	Did not trap	<u>1,053 (18.1%)</u>	<u>1,549</u>
		5,835 (100.0%)	8,557 ^a
2007-08	Trapped	3,322 (77.2%)	5,533
	Did not trap	<u>980 (22.8%)</u>	<u>1,634</u>
		4,302 (100.0%)	7,167 ^a
2008-09	Trapped	3,154 (75.7%)	5,319
	Did not trap	<u>1,012 (24.3%)</u>	<u>1,708</u>
		4,166 (100.0%)	7,027 ^a

^a excludes duplicates.

Table 3. Estimated number of trappers of various furbearers, 1995-96 through 2008-09.

	Estimated number of trappers (thousands)													
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Muskrat	3	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	2
Mink	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
Short-tailed weasel	<1	<1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	1	1
Long-tailed weasel	<1	<1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	<1	<1
Raccoon (Sept -Feb)	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	3	3
Raccoon (Mar -Aug) ^a	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1			
Striped skunk	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Eastern spotted skunk	<1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Badger	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Opossum	1	1	1	1	<1	<1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Red fox (Sept -Feb)	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Red fox (Mar -Aug) ^a	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1			
Gray fox	<1	n.a.	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	1	1
Coyote	1	1	1	1	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Beaver (Oct 08- Feb 09)	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
Beaver (Mar 08- Apr 08)	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1

^a Raccoon and red fox season continuous May 1994 thru March 15, 2006.

Table 4. Estimated take per trapper of various furbearers, 1995-96 through 2008-2009.

	Estimated take per successful trapper reporting that species													
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Muskrat	70	55	58	42	46	42	42	35	33	32	39	58	32	34
Mink	11	11	11	13	14	12	14	10	9	10	10	9	9	8
Short-tailed weasel	10	9	10	7	5	8	10	7	7	6	6	9	7	7
Long-tailed weasel	5	5	5	5	5	5	7	4	5	3	3	5	5	3
Raccoon (Sept -Feb)	23	23	24	23	20	20	27	25	22	23	21	21	23	23
Raccoon (Mar Aug) ^a	15	13	14	15	14	11	19	12	15	12	11			
Striped skunk	8	10	10	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	7
Eastern spotted skunk	5	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Badger	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1
Opossum	9	9	9	11	13	11	8	11	12	14	12	14	12	10
Red fox (Sept -Feb)	9	7	7	5	6	6	6	6	5	4	4	4	3	3
Red fox (Mar -Aug) ^a	5	4	4	3	4	4	5	5	6	3	3			
Gray fox	2	n.a.	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Coyote	5	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	4
Beaver (Oct 08-Feb 09)	14	16	16	16	16	15	18	13	12	13	13	13	11	11
Beaver (Mar 08 - Apr 08)	29	31	32	29	27	26	31	26	21	26	24	24	19	22

^a Raccoon and red fox season continuous May 1994 thru March 15, 2006.

Table 5. Minnesota trapper license sales and estimated annual harvest, 1995-96 through 2008-2009^a

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Trapper license sales ^b	5,630	6,675	6,996	6,652	4,936	5,337	5,534	5,725	5,841	6,271	6,163	8,557	7,167	7,027
Estimated harvest ^c (thousands)														
Muskrat	195	202	194	131	97	86	101	75	69	72	91	243	75	80
Mink	26	35	34	36	27	23	29	20	17	21	18	26	19	17
Short-tailed weasel	4	4	4	2	2	3	4	3	4	3	2	8	4	4
Long-tailed weasel	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	1
Raccoon (Sept - Feb)	53	69	66	64	37	32	60	61	54	57	49	79	73	72
Raccoon (Mar -Aug) ^f	5	5	5	7	4	4	6	4	5	5	4			
Striped skunk	8	11	11	9	5	5	7	8	8	9	7	11	11	10
Eastern spotted skunk ^g	<1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Badger	<1	1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Opossum	6	6	6	7	6	5	5	8	11	14	12	20	17	11
Red fox (Sept - Feb)	14	13	12	6	7	6	7	8	7	5	4	7	4	4
Red fox (Mar -Aug) ^f	1	1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	1	<1	<1			
Gray fox	1	n.a.	1	1	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Coyote	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
Beaver (Oct 08- Feb 09)	25	38	36	39	31	25	36	24	23	29	26	34	22	21
Beaver (Mar 08-Apr 08)	41	48	47	55	36	37	42	34	26	38	35	42	26	28
Registered harvest														
Otter	1,435	2,219	2,145	1,946	1,635	1,578	2,301	2,145	2,766	3,450	2,846	2,720	1,861	1,938
Lynx ^g	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Bobcat ^e	134	223	359	103	206	231	250	544	483	631	590	890	702	853
Fisher	942	1,773	2,761	2,695	1,725	1,674	2,119	2,660	2,517	2,552	2,388	3,251	1,682	1,712
Marten	1,500	1,625	2,261	2,299	2,423	1,629	1,928	2,839	3,214	3,241	2,653	3,788	2,221	1,823

^a Includes data for all seasons from October through April of years indicated.

^b Separate licenses were issued for juveniles (13-17 years old) and adults (18 and older), beginning in 1982. Nonresident (MN Landowner) licenses started in 2004. Senior trapping licenses were first issued in 2007. Lifetime Licenses became available for free when renewing lifetime sports or small game licenses in 2007. As of March 2, 2009 7,027 trapping licenses were sold in 2008 464 (6.6%) were juvenile licenses, 5,606 (79.8%) were Regular adult licenses, 817 (11.6%) were Senior licenses, 133(2%) were Lifetime licenses, and 7 (<1%) were Nonresident (MN Landowner) licenses. Duplicate licenses excluded.

^c Based upon trappers' responses to mail surveys. ^d 1 is any number which rounds to 1. <1 is any number which is <0.5.

^e Registered harvest for bobcat includes animals taken by hunting. ^f Raccoon and red fox season continuous May 1994 thru March 15, 2006.

^g Lynx (1984) and Eastern spotted skunk (1996) listed as Special Concern and threatened species (respectively) and are fully protected.

MINNESOTA FUR BUYERS SURVEY FOR THE 2008-2009 HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASON

Jason Abraham, Wildlife Furbearer Program Consultant
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INTRODUCTION

Fur buyers are individuals licensed by the State of Minnesota to buy and sell raw fur. They are required to keep complete records of all transactions and activities related to buying, selling, and disposing of raw furs. Each year buyers are sent a questionnaire asking them to submit information regarding the “average” price they paid to trappers for various furbearers the previous season.

METHODS

In August 2009, questionnaires were mailed to the 37 licensed fur buyers in Minnesota. The survey asked them to report the number and type of fur purchased from Minnesota trappers and hunters in 2008-09 and the “average price” paid to those hunters and trappers based on all furs purchased. A total of 25 usable surveys were received, for a return rate of 67 percent. Calculations of average pelt price for each species (Table 1) were weighted according to the number of pelts purchased by each buyer. Average pelt prices for the past 15 years are summarized in Table 2. Total estimated value of the furbearer harvest to trappers and hunters in 2008-09 was \$606,687 a decrease of about 35 percent from 2007-08.

RESULTS

Survey summaries are presented in the following tables.

Table 1. Minnesota fur prices as reported by licensed fur dealers, 2008-09.

Species	Number Buyers	Number Pelts	Minimum Price	Maximum Price	Weighted Mean
Muskrat	18	18321	1.00	2.50	1.85
Mink Female	17	1984	4.25	12.00	7.45
Mink male	16	2991	6.00	13.00	9.14
Raccoon	17	31269	5.00	11.00	9.34
Red Fox	17	1643	8.00	17.00	11.79
Gray Fox	13	369	2.50	20.00	14.08
Coyote	16	2009	1.78	15.00	7.12
Bobcat	11	97	30.00	100.00	74.74
River Otter	14	316	13.25	30.00	24.33
Beaver (fall)	17	5659	5.00	18.00	14.63
Beaver (Spring)	14	6126	7.00	15.00	9.36
L.T. Weasel	5	166	2.00	4.00	3.57
S.T. Weasel	12	461	1.00	4.00	2.21
Striped Skunk	12	324	1.00	5.00	2.56
Badger	9	190	4.18	20.00	7.70
Opossum	9	885	0.50	2.33	1.21
Fisher Male	9	147	22.00	45.00	22.27
Fisher Female	11	164	20.00	55.00	37.22
Marten Male	9	179	20.00	50.00	30.61
Marten Female	7	125	20.00	30.00	28.19
Deer Hides	15	7266	2.00	4.50	3.53
Bear Hides	5	0	25.00	50.00	29.81

Table 2. Average price per pelt paid to hunters and trappers in Minnesota, 1993-94 through 2008-09.

Species	Average pelt prices paid hunters and trappers in Minnesota (dollars)															
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Muskrat	1.35	1.61	1.53	3.49	2.24	1.11	1.57	1.83	2.32	2.11	2.05	1.9	2.81	5.79	2.96	1.85
Mink (female)	12.18	11.43	8.56	13.71	9.65	6.11	8.22	7.7	6.76	6.52	7.23	10.22	10.23	13.18	9.05	7.45
Mink (male)	21.89	14.9	11.75	20.82	13.52	9.83	11.61	11.15	9.34	9.55	11.41	11.34	14.29	18.04	12.32	9.14
S.T. Weasel	1.72	1.73	1.84	2.32	2.33	1.72	2.16	2.3	2.41	2.63	2.53	2.52	2.6	3.58	3.18	2.21
L.T. Weasel	1.05	2.05	1.24	3.33	2.67	2.05	2.34	1.8	2.98	1.94	3.34	3.05	2.56	4.35	5.00	3.57
Raccoon	8.26	9.02	9.4	15.16	13.92	7.25	5.09	8.86	9.53	10.33	11.45	10.49	9.61	11.92	14.32	9.34
Striped Skunk	3.7	3.52	3.21	2.11	3.18	4.72	4.4	4.79	3.91	5.81	4.66	3.95	3.77	4.46	5.27	2.56
Badger	4.62	6.12	6.33	8.49	6.53	6.3	7.3	10.15	9.39	13.18	14.23	12.94	13.4	15.71	13.92	7.70
Opossum	0.89	0.98	0.97	1.04	1.1	0.58	0.96	0.97	1.19	1.22	1.23	1.51	1.4	1.52	1.76	1.21
Red Fox	10.59	13.42	14.21	14.81	11.23	8.04	11.82	14.45	17.07	22.08	20.02	17.28	16.96	17.68	14.69	11.79
Gray Fox	6.55	9.69	7.49	9	7.69	5.63	7.06	7.52	8.36	9.05	13.64	12.58	15	22.36	30.09	14.08
Coyote	14.68	13.55	10.89	12.25	10.12	5.57	9.42	12.4	13.37	16.12	18.37	15.24	13.57	17.76	13.51	7.12
Bobcat	43.42	36.36	31.81	32.82	30.39	27.66	24.23	33.09	46	71.54	95.9	98.99	95.74	101.07	93.41	74.74
Beaver (fall-winter)	11.24	13.8	12.56	19.24	16.48	11.4	11.51	14.66	12.74	10.05	12.57	13.62	14.48	18.35	14.60	14.63
Beaver (spring)	9.41	14.48	10.96	19.14	17.39	14.06	11.02	12.8	12.47	9.99	11.09	13.8	16.49	14.81	17.77	9.36
Otter	43.14	47.5	38.76	38.75	39.81	34.03	41.41	50.52	46.19	61.16	85.33	87.23	88.89	42.85	29.49	24.33
Fisher (male)	14.17	19.06	16.17	25.48	31.09	18.92	19.45	20.14	23.18	26.7	27.15	30.02	36.03	76.33	63.09	22.27
Fisher (female)	28.4	29.93	24.9	34.47	33.65	21.76	19.91	19.01	22.86	25.44	25.71	27.47	31.46	67.82	48.24	37.22
Marten (male)	35.86	34.07	28.3	34.47	27.82	19.7	24.89	27.56	24.1	28	30.09	30.65	37.47	74.04	58.72	30.61
Marten (female)	29.58	28.34	21.42	29.26	21.79	16.12	21.27	21.25	22.52	27.3	26.7	27.42	31.53	66.09	50.05	28.19
Deer Hides	5.27	7.17	6.92		6.97	6.4	6.32	6.46	2.86	3.48	5.41	3.95	4.14	4.51	3.92	3.53
Bear Hides	46.77	38.93	50.72		37.27	36.23	33.87	39.81	36.1	40.56	41.55	46.61	39.3	43.03	36.57	29.81

