

New Permit Requirements for Fisher, Marten and Bobcat

New Fisher and Marten Trapping Permit

Following completion of the *New York State Fisher Management Plan*, regulations were adopted to:

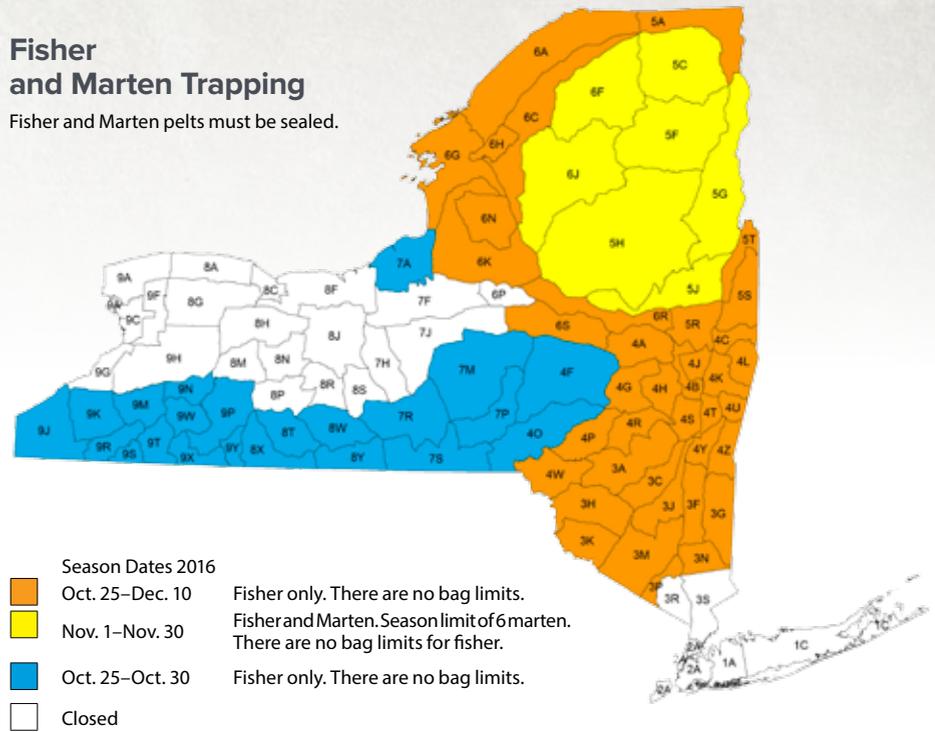
- Reduce the fisher (and marten) trapping season from 46 days to 30 days in select Adirondack Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in the Northern Zone (yellow area on the map).
- Establish a 6-day fisher trapping season in selected WMUs in Central/Western New York (blue area on the map).
- Require a free special permit for all fisher trapping. The special permit will enable DEC to collect important data for managing fisher harvests.

Permit conditions:

- To trap fisher or marten anywhere in the state, obtain a Special Free Fisher Permit or combination Fisher/Marten Permit (yellow area on map) from DEC regional Bureau of Wildlife offices as outlined in the table below.
- Submit the skull or lower jaw of all harvested fishers and the entire carcass of all harvested martens at the time of pelt sealing.
- Complete and submit a trapping activity log, even if you did not trap, within 10 days after the close of the season.

Fisher and Marten Trapping

Fisher and Marten pelts must be sealed.



Bobcat Harvest Expansion Area (HEA) Permit

To hunt or trap bobcats in the “Harvest Expansion Area” (HEA area highlighted in blue on the bobcat season map), which includes Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 3R, 3S, 4A, 4F, 4O, 5R, 6R, 6S, 7S, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X, and 9Y, you must obtain a free bobcat Harvest Expansion Area permit from DEC regional Bureau of Wildlife offices as outlined in the table below.

Note: Bobcat hunting/trapping activity logs and submission of the bobcat skull, jaw, or carcass are no longer required.

To Obtain a Free Fisher, Fisher/Marten, or Bobcat HEA Permit

Contact your regional wildlife office (see table below), or apply by e-mail. You must provide the following information:

- Name
- Species (fisher, fisher/marten, bobcat)
- Mailing address
- DEC ID # (from your trapping license or backtag)
- Phone number and/or e-mail address

A special free trapping permit must be obtained from the regional wildlife office.

- If you request a permit by e-mail, be sure to include the primary county in which you plan to hunt (bobcat) or trap (fisher, marten, or bobcat).

Only one fisher or fisher/marten permit is needed to trap these species anywhere in New York where the season is open, and only one bobcat permit is needed to hunt or trap bobcats in the WMUs in the Harvest Expansion Area.

Apply in person or by phone to any office listed below:

DEC Region	Fisher/Marten	Fisher	Bobcat HEA	Address	Phone
3	N/A	Contact any regional office to obtain a free permit to trap fisher in any WMU with an open season (other than those listed for fisher/marten).	3R, 3S	21 South Putt Corners Rd., New Paltz, NY 12561	845-256-3098
4			4A, 4F, 4O, 5R, 6R, 6S	1130 N Westcott Rd, Schenectady, NY 12306	518-357-2007
5	5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J		N/A	232 Golf Course Rd, Warrensburg, NY 12885	518-623-1240
6			7S	317 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601	315-785-2263
7			8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y	1285 Fisher Ave., Cortland, NY 13045	607-753-3095 ext. 247
8	N/A		7291 Coon Rd., Bath, NY 14810	607-776-2165	
9		9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X, 9Y	182 E Union St, Suite 3, Allegany, NY 14706	716-372-0645	

Or apply by email to: wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type “Fisher/Marten Permit” or “Bobcat Permit” in the subject line.

To hunt furbearers, you must possess a Resident or Non-resident Hunting license. A trapping license does not allow you to hunt furbearers. Furbearers may be hunted with a bow, crossbow or firearm as described below.

- You may hunt red and gray fox, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, mink, weasel and opossum.
- If you take a bobcat, it must be tagged and sealed.
- You may use a call, including an electronic call.
- Mink may only be hunted in the Southern Zone with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber during their open trapping season. Mink may not be hunted with a firearm in the Northern Zone.
- Muskrat may only be hunted on Lake Champlain during the open trapping season with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber.
- You may not hunt from any motor vehicle, including an ATV or snowmobile.
- Except as noted above, you may hunt furbearers using any handgun, shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, bow, crossbow or air gun.

Possession and Use of Rifles for Hunting Furbearers

1. Is **any deer season open** in the location you wish to hunt (including archery, muzzleloading, regular, late and Focus Area)?
 - a. If **NO**, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers.
 - b. If **YES**, can deer be hunted with rifles in that location during the regular season?
 - i. If **YES**, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers during any open deer season.
 - ii. If **NO**, you may only possess afield rimfire rifles .22-caliber or smaller, or centerfire rifles **LESS THAN** .22 caliber (.204, .17, etc.) during any open deer season. Once all deer seasons are closed, the restriction ends, except:
2. You may **NEVER** possess a rifle afield in Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties.
3. In the Northern Zone, it is illegal to carry a rifle larger than .22 caliber rimfire (or .22-caliber or larger centerfire rifles) at any time if accompanied by a dog, except when coyote hunting.



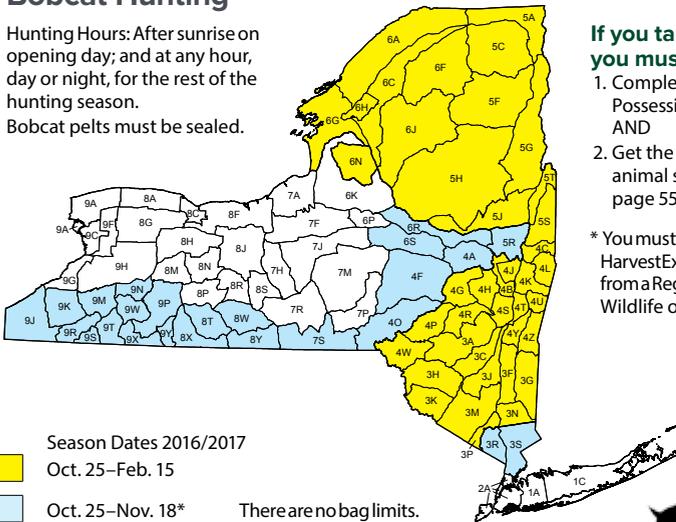
Hunting Furbearers at Night

- Spotlights, night vision, thermal and laser devices are permitted for furbearer hunting. They may be attached to the firearm. All laws pertaining to the use of a spotlight apply.
- Hunters should consult with local government officials for any laws that may prohibit the discharge of firearms at night.

Bobcat Hunting

Hunting Hours: After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the hunting season.

Bobcat pelts must be sealed.



If you take a bobcat, you must:

1. Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag (see below) AND
2. Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed (see page 55).

* You must obtain a free bobcat Harvest Expansion Area permit from a Regional DEC Bureau of Wildlife office, see page 52.



Weasel, Opossum, Skunk, Raccoon and Fox Hunting

Long Island: Nov. 1–Feb. 25
All other areas of New York: Oct. 25–Feb. 15

There are no bag limits for these species. They may be hunted during the day or night.



Coyote Hunting

Statewide except Long Island and New York City: Oct. 1–March 26
There are no bag limits for coyotes. They may be hunted during the day or night.



Furbearer Trapping

Definition of Trapping

To trap means to take, kill or capture wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices commonly used to take wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities. You do not need a hunting license to shoot a trapped animal.

Other Definitions

- **Public Highway:** The traveled portion of a public highway. Culverts, drainage ditches, and the area under bridges are not considered the traveled portion of a public highway.
- **Carcass:** The body or parts thereof, meat, organs or viscera of an animal, including fish. Feathers (including feathers with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs or viscera, are excluded from this definition.
- **Suspension:** This term applies to animals fully suspended in the air by means of the trap anchoring system (typically a chain, cable or wire). It does not apply to traps set in water or to traps that are directly and firmly attached to an elevated structure, such as a tree.
- **Restraining trap:** A device used to capture and restrain a mammal. These traps include leg-gripping traps ("foothold traps"), foot encapsulating traps, and cage or box traps.
- **Foot encapsulating trap:** A trap with the following mechanical attributes: The triggering and restraining mechanisms are enclosed within a housing; the triggering and restraining mechanisms are only accessible through a single opening when set; the opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter; and the trap has a swivel-mounted anchoring system.
- **Cage or box trap:** A type of restraining trap that fully encloses a captured animal within wood, wire, plastic, or metal.

Legal Traps

- You must put your name and address or your DEC customer identification number (see your hunting or trapping license) on all your traps.
- Foothold traps larger than 4" set on land must have a pan tension device and be covered when set.
- Teeth are not allowed on foothold traps.
- On land, foothold traps must be 5¾" or smaller (inside jaw spread).



Place your name & address or Customer ID # on all your traps.

OR



Report Your Furbearer Sightings!

DEC wants to learn more about the occurrence of various furbearers throughout New York such as bobcat, otter, fisher, and weasel. Your observations help biologists understand the distribution and abundance of these elusive or inconspicuous mammals.

You can report your observations online, and can even include photos!

Go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html or e-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov

Thanks for your help!



- During beaver or otter season, foothold traps up to 7¼" are allowed if set under water.
- When the beaver or otter season is closed, foothold traps set in water may not be larger than 5¾".
- A foothold trap larger than 7¼" is never legal to use.
- Body-gripping traps more than 7½" may never be used on land.
- Body-gripping traps more than 7½" may only be used in water during an open beaver or otter season.
- Snares may not be used for trapping.
- Box or cage traps are legal for all species.
- You may not use a cage trap that is designed to take more than one muskrat at a setting.

Trapping Methods

Checking traps

- In the Southern Zone: You must check traps once in each 24-hour period.
- In the Northern Zone, follow these rules:
 - » **WMU 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J and 6N:** Visited once in each 48-hour period
 - » **WMU 5A, 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H and 6K:**
 - **Traps set in water during the open season for beaver, otter, mink and muskrat:** Visited once in each 48-hour period
 - **Body-gripping traps set on land:** Visited once in each 48-hour period
 - **Restraining traps:** Visited once in each 24-hour period

Use of carcasses as bait

Any carcass, as defined above, used as bait and placed or used in conjunction with a foothold trap shall be completely covered at the time the trap is set or visited. Coverings shall include

but not be limited to brush, branches, leaves, soil, snow, water, or enclosures constructed of wood, metal, wire, plastic or natural materials, and must completely cover the carcass so that it is not visible from directly above.

Land trapping

- You may not set a trap in such a manner that it causes a captured animal to be fully suspended in the air.
- In the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure when the fisher and /or marten seasons are closed.

Water trapping

- You may set a trap in a permanent body of water only when the mink, muskrat, otter, or beaver season is open.
- You may not disturb a muskrat house or den.
- You may not set a trap on or within 5 feet of a muskrat house.

Land or water trapping

- You may use any legal method to kill a trapped animal. You do not need a hunting license to use a firearm to kill a legally trapped animal.
- You may not set or stake a trap prior to 7:00 AM on opening day.
- You are not allowed to set a trap within 100 feet of a house, school, playground or church unless you have permission from the owner of the land where the trap is set.
- You may not set a trap on a public road. You are allowed to set a trap in a culvert or ditch unless the property is posted or the landowner does not allow trapping.

Trapping near beaver dams and lodges

- You may not disturb a beaver lodge or beaver dam.

You may set the following traps on or near (within 15 feet of) a beaver lodge or dam at any time:

- Body-gripping trap that measures less than 5½ inches
- Foot-encapsulating trap
- Foothold traps that are 4¾ inches or less
- Cage or box traps
- Any trap may be used if the otter season is open

By limiting the trap sizes that are usable on beaver dams, this regulation provides greater

opportunities for trappers while minimizing the accidental capture of otter.

Pelt Sealing

Otter, bobcat, fisher and marten must have a plastic seal attached to the pelt or unskinned animal before:

- It is sold or ownership is transferred to another person, or
- It is mounted or tanned, or
- It leaves New York State, or
- Ten days have passed since the close of the season where the fur was taken

The plastic pelt seals can be removed when the pelt is processed for taxidermy, tanning or manufacturing.

How to get your pelts sealed: a two-step process

- **Step 1:** Fill out your furbearer possession tag.
 - » A possession tag must be filled out for each animal you take.
 - » Possession tags must be filled out immediately after you reach your motor vehicle, camp or home, whichever comes first.
 - » Possession tags must stay with the animal or pelt at all times, but they do not need to be attached to the pelt.
 - » Furbearer possession tags can be obtained from your regional wildlife office (see page 6) or at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/29046.html
- **Step 2:** Get your pelt sealed (see below).
 - » A completed furbearer possession tag must be submitted to obtain a plastic pelt seal.
 - » You can give your pelts to another person (other than a taxidermist) so he or she can get the pelts sealed or get them skinned. You must give that person your trapping license or a copy of your license and your completed possession tags while he or she has your pelts.
 - » Only authorized DEC representatives can attach the plastic pelt seals to otter, bobcat, fisher or marten.
 - » Call a regional wildlife office (see page 6) to make arrangements to get your otter, bobcat, fisher, or marten sealed. Seals for these species cannot be sent through the mail.
 - » Prior to having a marten sealed, you must submit the entire carcass.
 - » Bobcats taken in the Harvest Expansion Area (see page 52) must have skull or lower jaw submitted at the time of pelt sealing.
 - » If the plastic pelt seal is broken or damaged, contact your regional wildlife office for a replacement seal.

Buying and Selling Fur

- Species requiring a pelt seal cannot be bought or sold or given to another person unless they have the plastic pelt seal attached. All other species may be bought, sold, and transported without restriction.
- Furbearers may be bought or sold either skinned or unskinned.

- People who buy fur do not need a fur buyer's license in New York.

Rights of Trappers

- No one may disturb a trap lawfully set by another person.
- No one may remove a lawfully trapped animal from another person's trap.
- No one may harass a trapper while he or she is trapping.

License Responsibilities

- A license is not transferable and can be used only by the person to whom issued.
- A license to trap does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
- It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.

Trapping License Exceptions

All residents must have a valid trapping license in their possession except:

- Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees, and members of their immediate families do not need a trapping license, when trapping on farm lands they are occupying and cultivating, for bobcat, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, raccoon, opossum, weasel, skunk and unprotected wildlife that may be lawfully taken by trapping. (**Note: beaver, otter, fisher and marten are not included.**)
- Native Americans living on a reservation do not need a trapping license while trapping on reservation lands.

Incidental and Accidental Captures of Trapped Animals

There are no provisions in the Environmental Conservation Law allowing trappers to possess animals that are taken outside of the open trapping season.

You must attempt to release any animals that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or if the area is not open for trapping that species.

If the animal is injured to the extent you believe it will not survive, humanely dispatch it. If you are not sure, contact a DEC regional wildlife office for assistance.

When you find an unintentionally captured animal dead in the trap, or when you must dispatch an unintentionally captured animal due to a serious injury, you may remove it and lay it in the vicinity of the trap. There are no legal provisions for you to keep it, and you may not possess it even to take it back to your vehicle

without permission from DEC.

DEC seeks information on all accidentally taken bobcat, otter, fisher and marten as well as other species of unusual nature. If the animal is dead, a DEC biologist will want to collect the carcass. Using the location and carcass data, biologists will be able to track the status of these species and study the age and reproductive data from the individual. The pelts from these carcasses will also be utilized in our trapper education classes.

Remember, you must contact the Regional Wildlife Office or an ECO as soon as possible to report the catch. You will receive instructions on what to do and information to provide.

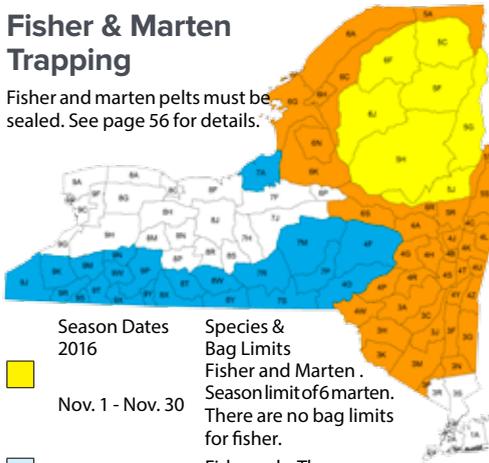
Possession of Road-Killed Furbearers

If the trapping or hunting season is open for the species in a WMU, you may keep a dead furbearer found on roads within that WMU. The requirements for possessing road-killed furbearers are the same as for trapping and hunting. For example, if you find a road-killed bobcat in an area with an open bobcat season, you can possess it if you have a hunting or trapping license, but you must fill out a furbearer possession tag and have the pelt sealed.

Furbearer Trapping

Fisher & Marten Trapping

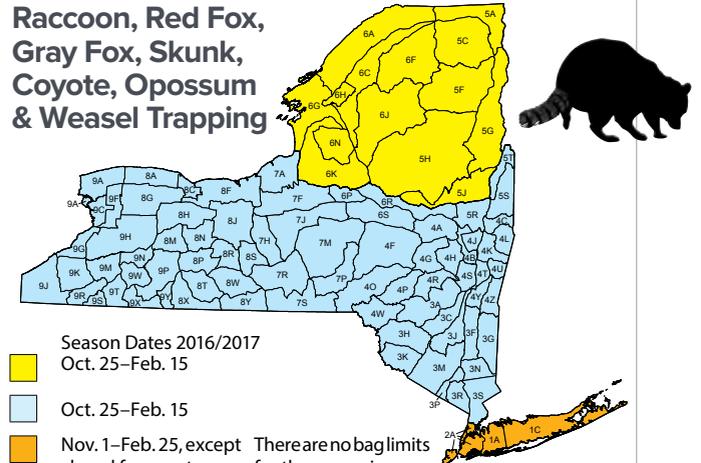
Fisher and marten pelts must be sealed. See page 56 for details.



A special permit is required for trapping fisher and marten. Contact your DEC Wildlife Office (see page 10 for details).

Season Dates 2016	Species & Bag Limits
Nov. 1 - Nov. 30	Fisher and Marten. There are no bag limits for fisher.
Oct. 25 - Oct. 30	Fisher only. There are no bag limits.
Closed	Fisher and Marten
Oct. 25 - Dec. 10	Fisher only. There are no bag limits.

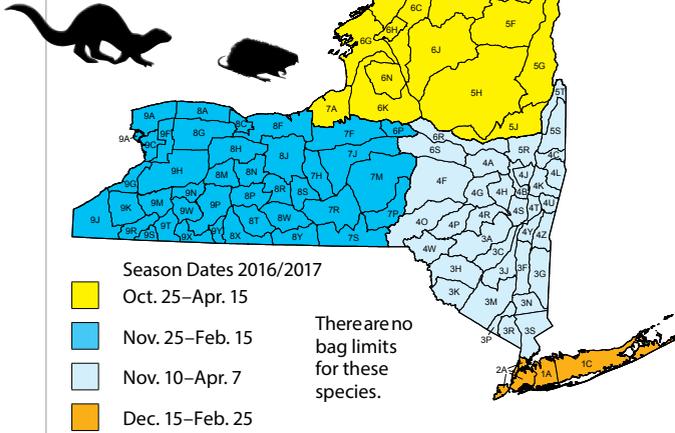
Raccoon, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Skunk, Coyote, Opossum & Weasel Trapping



Season Dates 2016/2017	Oct. 25 - Feb. 15	There are no bag limits for these species.
Oct. 25 - Feb. 15	Oct. 25 - Feb. 15	
Nov. 1 - Feb. 25, except closed for coyote	Nov. 1 - Feb. 25, except closed for coyote	

In the Northern Zone body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure when the fisher and marten season is closed.

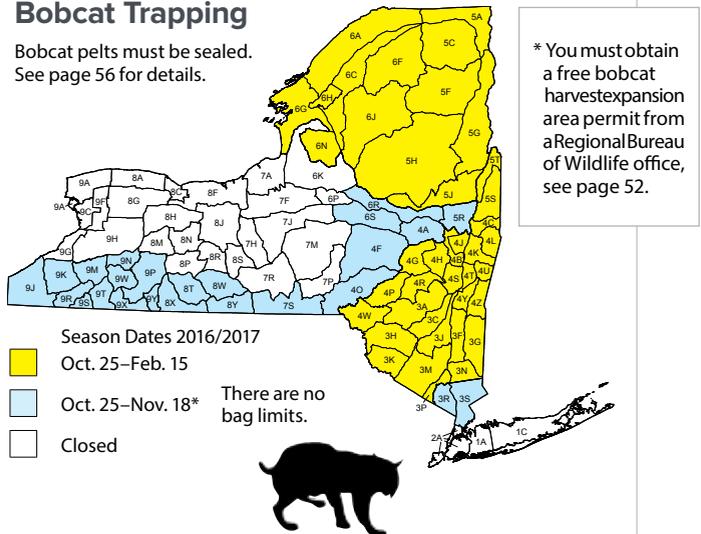
Mink & Muskrat Trapping



Season Dates 2016/2017	Oct. 25 - Apr. 15	There are no bag limits for these species.
Nov. 25 - Feb. 15	Nov. 25 - Feb. 15	
Nov. 10 - Apr. 7	Nov. 10 - Apr. 7	
Dec. 15 - Feb. 25	Dec. 15 - Feb. 25	

Bobcat Trapping

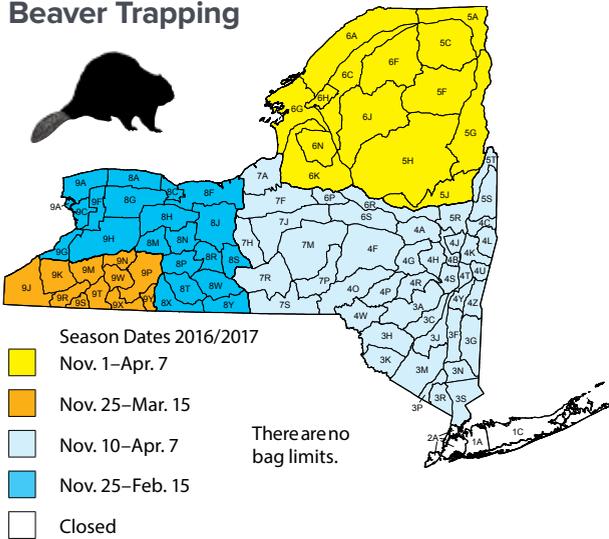
Bobcat pelts must be sealed. See page 56 for details.



* You must obtain a free bobcat harvest expansion area permit from a Regional Bureau of Wildlife office, see page 52.

Season Dates 2016/2017	Oct. 25 - Feb. 15	There are no bag limits.
Oct. 25 - Nov. 18*	Oct. 25 - Nov. 18*	
Closed	Closed	

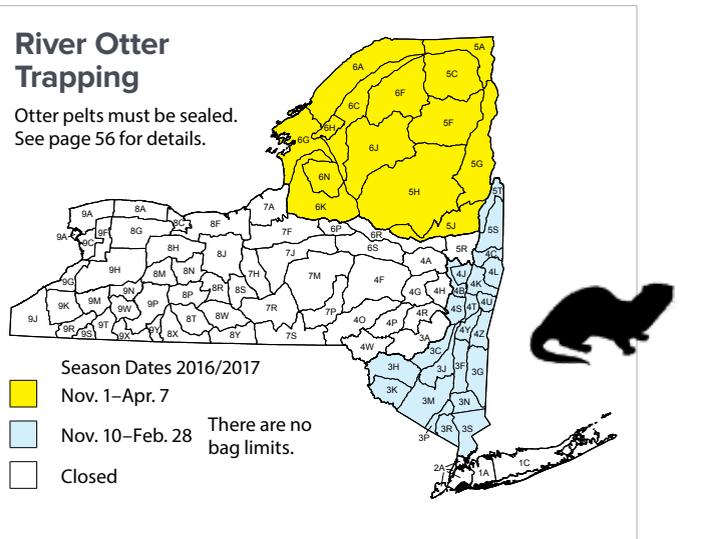
Beaver Trapping



Season Dates 2016/2017	Nov. 1 - Apr. 7	There are no bag limits.
Nov. 25 - Mar. 15	Nov. 25 - Mar. 15	
Nov. 10 - Apr. 7	Nov. 10 - Apr. 7	
Nov. 25 - Feb. 15	Nov. 25 - Feb. 15	
Closed	Closed	

River Otter Trapping

Otter pelts must be sealed. See page 56 for details.



Season Dates 2016/2017	Nov. 1 - Apr. 7	There are no bag limits.
Nov. 10 - Feb. 28	Nov. 10 - Feb. 28	
Closed	Closed	

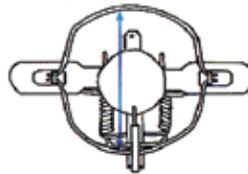
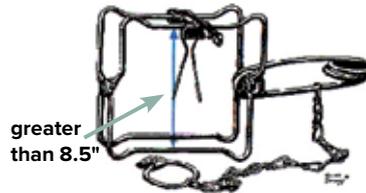
How to Measure a Trap

How to measure a body-gripping trap:

Measure the inside distance between the outer frames of the trap. The addition of one or more bars to the inside of the frame does not change the way these traps are measured. The measurement is still the **MAXIMUM** distance as shown in the top picture.

How to measure a foothold trap:

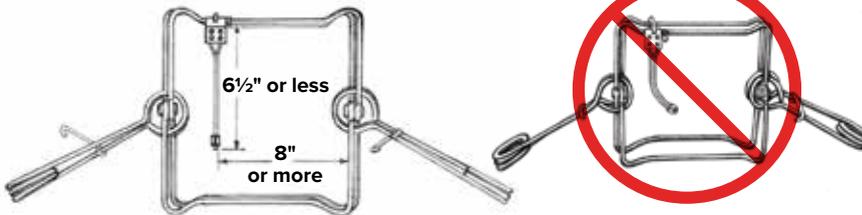
Measure the inside distance between the jaws excluding the gripping surface as shown. If the jaws have inside laminations, the measurement is the inside distance between the laminations. If the trap has double jaws, measure the inside distance between the outer jaws.



Trigger Regulations for Beaver Trappers

This regulation applies if you:

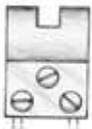
- Trap in a WMU in the Southern Zone during a closed otter season
- Use a body-gripping trap larger than 8.5 inches (these are "330" size traps)



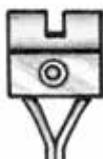
1. Body-gripping trap with off-set parallel trigger:

2. Example of non-legal vs. legal trigger brackets:

Non-legal: V-notch, four-way trigger



Two-way tension adjustable (legal)

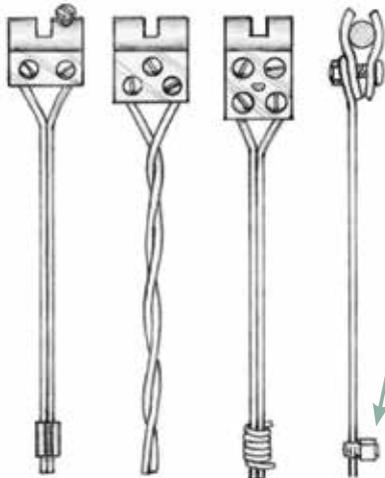


Two-way non-tension adjustable (legal)



Four-way trigger (not legal)

Legal: square-notch, two-way trigger



The trigger must be **6 1/2" or less**.

Recommended tension: **8 to 12 oz.**

Trigger wires must be **joined together**.

NOTE:

1. You can bait these traps in any manner. However, the trap must have all of the features noted above.
2. There is no exception for traps set under ice; traps set under ice, whether baited or not, must have all of the design features noted above.
3. There is no tension requirement. However, DEC research showed that 8 to 12 oz. of tension works best for protecting otter and catching beaver.

3. Examples of acceptable parallel triggers:

4. Tension-adjustable triggers and trigger stops are no longer required.

New York State Trappers Association

Are you one of the 11,000 trappers in New York willing to risk losing your right to trap? The NYS Trappers Association currently has just under 2,000 members dedicated to defend, promote & advance trapping and other outdoor activities in NY and we need your help. Recent legislation introduced in the New York Senate & Assembly designed to reduce or eliminate trapping as we now know it, has grown increasingly more difficult to combat with the current membership and funding levels. That's why we're asking for the support of ALL New York sportsmen & women, not just trappers, in our time of need. You don't have to be an active trapper and even if you never plan to set a trap, please consider becoming a member of the Organization working for you in Albany to not only defend, but advance trapping and other outdoor opportunities here in New York so in the future, you, your children & your grandchildren will be able to.

Name _____

Street/RFD/Box _____

Town/City _____

State _____ Zip _____

County _____

Region _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Date of Birth _____

General Membership — \$35/yr
Over 16 years of age; Magazine included

Family Membership — \$40/yr
Two family members; One magazine included

Junior Membership — \$25/yr
Under 16 years of age; Magazine included

Basic Membership — \$25/yr
Over 16 years of age; NO magazine

Lifetime Membership — \$300
NO magazine

Lifetime Membership — \$750

Mail To:

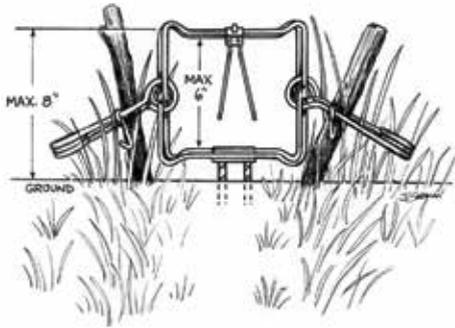
Bob Samuelson,
NYS Trappers Assoc.
3889 Westside Drive,
Churchville, NY 14428

or sign up online at: www.nystrappers.org

Furbearer Trapping

Regulations for Body-Gripping Traps Set on Land

Body-gripping traps set on land shall not be within 100 feet of a public trail except on Wildlife Management Areas.

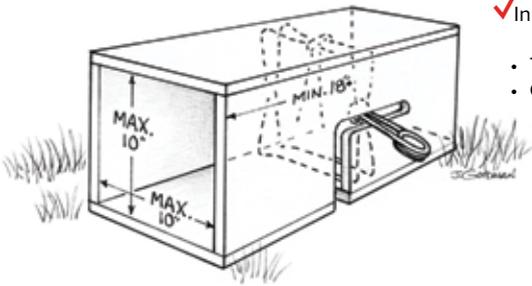
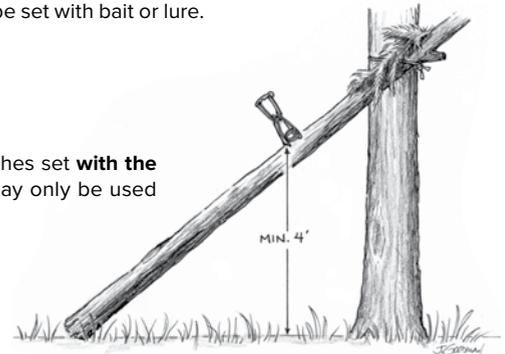


A body-gripping trap measuring less than 5½ inches may be set in any manner **with or without the use of bait**. Body-gripping traps measuring 5½ inches to 6 inches, set without the use of bait, must be set so that no part of the trap is 8 inches or more above the ground. Body-gripping traps measuring more than 6 inches to 7 1/2 inches may never be set in this manner.

NOTE: During a closed season for fisher and/or marten in the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure.

Body-gripping traps 5½ inches to 7½ inches set **with the use of bait, lure, or other attractants** may only be used as follows:

- ✓ Four or more feet off the ground

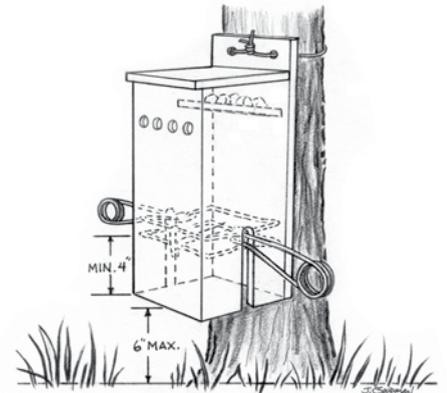


- ✓ In a container of the following design:

- Trap recessed minimum of 18 inches
- Opening height and width 10 inches or less

- ✓ In a container of the following design:

- Only one entrance, facing the ground
- Container set so entrance is no more than 6 inches from ground
- Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches



- ✓ In a container of the following design:

- Opening height 6 inches or less
- Eight-inch minimum spring notches
- Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches

You may also build an enclosure of natural materials (e.g., logs or rocks).

- Opening height 6 inches or less
- Trap recessed minimum of 8 inches

