Coyote Hunting
Statewide except Long Island and New York City: Oct. 1–Mar. 29
There are no bag limits for coyotes. They may be hunted during the day or night.

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

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

If you take a bobcat, you must:
1. Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag AND
2. Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

General Regulations
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.
- 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.

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

Coyote Hunting
Statewide except Long Island and New York City: Oct. 1–Mar. 29
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). For information on how to correctly measure traps, see page 58.**
- **During beaver or otter season, foothold traps up to 7¼” are allowed if set under water.**

Trappers, furbearer hunters, and members of the public who assist with DEC furbearer management activities are eligible to receive a special patch! You can receive a patch if you: voluntarily turn in an incidentally trapped animal; turn in a road-killed fisher, bobcat, marten, otter, or weasel; report a violation involving a furbearer species that results in a conviction; provide data in response to a DEC request; or to assist with a DEC study; or promote trapping or furbearer hunting in NY. Carcasses are used for staff training, biological data, trapper education, and outreach programs. Contact your regional furbearer biologist (see page 60) for more information about getting a patch.

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.**

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.

**You do not need to place your name and address on your traps.**
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 not set a trap on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den or house, measured at ice or water level, except under the following conditions:
  » during an open otter season, traps of any legal size may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, but not on or within 15 feet of a beaver den or house;
  » during an open or closed otter season, any of the following traps may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den, or house:
    - body-gripping trap that measures less than 5.5 inches;
    - foot-encapsulating trap
    - foothold trap that measures 4 ⅞ inches or less;
    - cage or box trap.

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

• 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. Seals for these species cannot be sent through the mail.
  » Prior to having a marten sealed, you must submit the entire carcass. Prior to having a fisher sealed, you must submit the skull or lower jaw.
  » 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.

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.

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 Exceptions
All residents must have a valid trapping license in their possession except:
**Fisher & Marten Trapping**

To trap fisher or marten you must obtain a free annual trapping permit from a Regional Bureau of Wildlife Office (see page 60).

**Season Dates 2019**
- **Nov. 1 - Nov. 30**
- **Oct. 25 – Oct. 30**
- **Oct. 25 – Dec. 10**
- **Closed**

**Species & Bag Limits**
- Fisher and Marten. Season limit of 6 marten. There are no bag limits for fisher.

**If you take a fisher or marten you must:**
- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

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

**Season Dates 2019/2020**
- **Oct. 25–Feb. 15**
- **Nov. 1–Feb. 25, except closed for coyote**

**In the Northern Zone (see page 24) body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure if the fisher and marten season is closed.**

**Mink & Muskrat Trapping**

**Season Dates 2019/2020**
- **Oct. 25–Apr. 15**
- **Nov. 25–Feb. 15**
- **Nov. 10–Apr. 7**
- **Dec. 15–Feb. 25**

**There are no bag limits for these species.**

**Bobcat Trapping**

**Season Dates 2019/2020**
- **Oct. 25–Feb. 15**
- **Oct. 25–Nov. 15**
- **Closed**

**There are no bag limits.**

**Beaver Trapping**

**Season Dates 2019/2020**
- **Nov. 1–Apr. 7**
- **Nov. 10–Apr. 7**
- **Nov. 25–Feb. 15**
- **Nov. 25–Mar. 15**
- **Closed**

**There are no bag limits.**

**River Otter Trapping**

**Season Dates 2019/2020**
- **Nov. 1–Apr. 7**
- **Nov. 10–Feb. 28**
- **Closed**

**There are no bag limits.**

If you take an otter you must:
- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.
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 8½ 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
   Legal: square-notch, two-way trigger

3. Examples of acceptable parallel triggers:
4. Tension-adjustable triggers and trigger stops are no longer required.

The trigger must be 6½” 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.
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

WomenHuntFishNY – Photo Contest Winner

**After the Hunt**

Subject: Nikki Boxler
Location: Western NY
Permit Requirements for Fisher and Marten

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 annual permit for all fisher trapping. The special permit will enable DEC to collect important data for managing fisher harvests.

Permit Conditions:

- To trap fisher anywhere in the state or marten in Adirondack WMUs, obtain a Special Free Annual 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.

To Obtain a Free Annual Fisher or Fisher/Marten Permit:

Only one fisher or fisher/marten permit is needed to trap these species anywhere in New York where the season is open.

Contact your Regional Wildlife Office (see table below), or apply by e-mail. You must provide the following information:

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

Apply by e-mail to: wildlife@dec.ny.gov, type “Fisher/Marten Permit” in the subject line. Please be sure to include the information listed above and the primary county where you plan to trap.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEC Region</th>
<th>Fisher/Marten</th>
<th>Fisher</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Contact any Regional Wildlife Office to obtain a free annual permit to trap fisher in any WMU with an open season (other than those listed for fisher/marten).</td>
<td>21 S Putt Corners Rd, New Paltz, NY 12561</td>
<td>845-256-3088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>65561 State Hwy 10, Stamford, NY 12167</td>
<td>607-652-2302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 6F, 6J</td>
<td></td>
<td>232 Golf Course Rd, Warrensburg, NY 12885</td>
<td>518-623-1240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>317 Washington St, Watertown, NY 13601</td>
<td>315-785-2534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>1285 Fisher Ave, Cortland, NY 13045</td>
<td>607-753-3095, x. 247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>7291 Coon Rd, Bath, NY 14810</td>
<td>607-622-8271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>182 E Union St, Suite 3, Allegany, NY 14706</td>
<td>716-372-0645</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or apply by email to: wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type “Fisher/Marten Permit” in the subject line.
What Drives Changes in the Fisher Population in the Northern Zone?

DEC Embarks on Fisher Demographics Project

The New York State Fisher Management Plan, adopted in 2016, outlined the goals and objectives for fisher management for the next 10 years. The plan highlighted high-priority research needs including determining factors influencing recent changes in the Central Adirondack fisher population.

To better understand what drives changes in fisher populations in the Central Adirondacks specifically, and more widely across the Northern Zone, from 2019-21 DEC will partner with researchers at SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry to estimate key demographic parameters for fishers including adult survival and reproductive rates. Fishers will be live-trapped, adult females will be fitted with GPS collars, and adult males will be fitted with conventional VHF collars. Juveniles will be ear-tagged only.

GPS collars on adult female fisher will be used to locate and monitor maternal dens. The combination of real-time GPS location data as well as trail cameras deployed at maternal den sites will be used to estimate kit production and survival. These den attendance patterns will be examined relative to conditions that may influence kit survival such as temperature, snow, and storm events. Location and activity data from these collars will also be used to monitor adult fisher habitat use and survival.

Ultimately, data on the reproductive potential of Northern Zone fisher populations and a better understanding of population dynamics will be used to inform season setting and ensure sustainable harvest opportunities for this important furbearer resource.

Report Your Furbearer Sightings!

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

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

Go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html or email us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov!

Thanks for your help!